Pulitzer candidates in training win awards - Page 5

NIAGARA NEWS

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Niagara News is produced by the Journalism — Print students at Niagara College, Welland Campus

We're still growing

By CHRISTINE CHALONER
Staff Writer

Niagara College continues to grow with another increase in enrolment this year.

As of Sept. 11, there was a one per cent increase in enrolment from last year. "The enrolment doesn't swing back and forth huge," says Al Vaughan, director of enrolment and registration services, adding, "It's fairly consistent."

Vaughan says it's "good that the college doesn't grow too much too fast" because then there could be problems such as overcrowding.

About 5,000 students are attending Niagara College this year, with 3,000 of those in term one. Counted in the first-year students are the 300 or so post-graduate students. The post-graduate program enrolment increased by about 70 students from last year.

Two per cent of first-year enrolment is international students, with international student enrolment doubling from last year, up to 240 students.

Vaughan says having international students at the college is "good for the overall education in the classroom."

The "most popular" program enrolments of international students are Hospitality and Tourism,

Continued on Page 3

Daniel Ayotte, of Welland, loses his cool while participating in the Low Ropes Professional Development Initiative program, at the Welland campus on Sept. 23.

Photo by Laura T. Ricciuto

Niagara College President Dan Patterson tries out the new gym floor during the ribbon-cutting ceremony on Wednesday, in the Mackenzie building at the Welland campus. For a complete story, see our Oct.13 edition.

Photo by Laura T. Ricciuto

After Hours pub gets facelift

By RYAN McLAUGHLIN
Staff Writer

Many things have changed around Niagara College over the summer, but none so much as the look of the student pub.

After Hours, the student-funded and -operated pub/eatery, is sporting a brand new look this September, as well as a bunch of new features.

"Aesthetically speaking, the interior was renovated with a new décor," said Dave Rapelje, general manager of the Student Centre, adding, "We created new seating space, put in a new floor, and the interior lighting was redone."

The renovations were the first major changes to the pub in the last five years. "The student centre has had a couple of years of successful operation, but like any business we need to do more to service our clientele," said Rapelje. "Students deserved a new change, a new look, and a new feel, which I feel we've created."

With a $50,000 price tag, the renovations have also included a new under-lit bar, raised seating, larger stage size, and a new DJ booth that looks out upon what is sure to be crowds of people.

The makeover, started and finished between July and August, was orchestrated by MuchMusic set designer Marlis Vos and her renovation company, Seven Degrees.

When not redesigning nightclubs and the college pub, Vos works with MuchMusic doing work on such programs as Electric Circus, Intimate and Interactive, and the MuchMusic Video Awards.

The new layout was designed to "better service our patrons," said Rapelje, but it also performs a dual function of helping staff. Speaking of the new bar he said, "It definitely increases open sightlines. An open bar allows for better view of the room."

With the DJ booth raised above the crowd, there will be an opportunity for pub security to use it as well.

"It allows us to identify a situation before it happens," he said.

The pub security team has been increased to account for the higher number of people expected to attend pub events.

Every Wednesday students of all ages can see Yuk-Yuk's comedy for free at After Hours, and Thursday nights are the Welland campus pub nights, also with no cover charge.

See Page 3 for photo

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MOIST USHERED IN NEW SCHOOL YEAR AT ORIENTATION 2000

Comedian Johnny Guardhouse had the crowd in stitches.

A number of students received prizes that will be useful to them this year.

Niagara College President Dan Patterson speaks to the crowd at Orientation on Thursday, Sept. 7.

All eyes were on Moist for most of the afternoon. They played a great show.

Photos and Layout by

TARA FORD

CRYSTAL LANGILLE

ANDREW SOVRAN

Johnny Guardhouse presents the prize of two trips to two first-year students.

The crowd at Orientation was packed with students, frosh keepers and entertainment.

Many forms of entertainment were there, including a juggler walking around on stilts.

STATE OF THE COLLEGE

Continuing Education enrolment on rise

Over 600 courses provide students with skills for the local workforce

By ANDREW SOVRAN
Staff Writer

Enrolment in Continuing Education courses at Niagara College is up about five per cent from last year, says Shirley Tomovic, team leader of the development officers for Continuing Education.

"Things look pretty nice," says Tomovic.

There are 5,700 students enrolled in more than 600 Continuing Education courses offered through Niagara College. Many of the courses start later on in the year, so the number of students keeps growing, she says.

'We need to find out what kind of training is necessary to support business locally.' — Sue Tallon

Class sizes vary for Continuing Education sessions. "We go as low as eight to 10 people in a class, and sometimes upwards of 35."

Tomovic says as a development officer she co-ordinates more than 120 courses. Some of her areas include casino training, some vocational training, art courses and French, the most popular course she offers.

Sue Tallon says her role as a development officer is to identify training activities that the community requires.

"We need to find out what kind of training is necessary to support business locally," says Tallon.

"Once we've identified a training activity, we then work with the teacher, or the experts in the area, to put a course or program together."

Tallon says development officers are responsible for setting up timelines, for locations at which the courses are to be held, for recruiting and hiring teachers, as well as for talking with students.

Some of the areas Tallon co-ordinates include early childhood education, horticulture, all English-related courses and photography, the most popular course she offers.

"The demand has increased significantly. This year, we have two sections of photography going, with 60 students in each. I have 70 students on the wait list."

Tallon says she "enjoys the variety" of her job, and all of the people she gets to meet. "It's a great place to work."

Jane Weeks, another development officer, says a few of the courses she co-ordinates are the Ontario Management Development Program (OMDP), as well as courses dealing with computers. Some of the more popular courses she identified are those in the OMDP, such as How to Start a Small Business, Team Building and Leadership Skills.

'Last term, we had more online students than any other college in the province.' — Jane Weeks

Weeks says the Continuing Education courses Niagara offers online are becoming more and more popular.

"Last term, we had more online students than any other college in the province," says Weeks. "We're one of the small to medium-size colleges, (so) we're doing really well with it.

"There's a tremendous demand (for online courses,)" says Rick Fortier, co-ordinator of distance learning, which is defined as courses offered over the Internet, and Continuing Education's Open Learning Centre, in Hennepin Hall at the Welland campus.

"This term alone we have over 500 students. Every year it's expanding. It's probably the biggest area we have right now. It's a new methodology for learning. It's perfect for people who are on shift-work, or don't want to come into the college every Tuesday at 9 p.m."

The number of students in distance learning has grown by over 25 per cent, says Fortier. Among the most popular distance learning courses, Fortier says, are English, psychology, accounting and computer skills courses.

At the Open Learning Centre, says Fortier, students can come in any time during the day and take courses on all of the Microsoft Office products. Fortier says the centre is popular.

"With the Open Learning Centre, people can create their own schedule." It's open weekdays from 10 a.m. until 8 p.m.

'With the Open Learning Centre, people can create their own schedule.' — Rick Fortier

Cheryl Bridenbaker, development officer, co-ordinates the areas of health sciences. Some of these include nursing courses, cardiopulmonary resuscitation and first aid, personal support worker and gerontology.

Bridenbaker says the Registered Practical Nurse program is the most popular she offers.

"This year, we've taken 80 students, when normally we take 40," says Bridenbaker, "so that's going to be off the charts."

Bridenbaker says there's been a "major" increase in the number of students in health science courses. "Going back to the health care cuts made by (Ontario Premier) Mike Harris a few years ago, right now there is a critical shortage of registered nurses and registered practical nurses. We decided, because of community needs, we would take in two groups of practical nursing students."

Booming economy hasn't hurt college enrolment

Continued from Page 1

Computer Programmer/Analyst and Business Administration-International Business.

The program with the highest enrolment at Niagara College is Business Administration at the Glendale campus in Niagara-on-the-Lake. The first year of Business Administration is a common year, with students taking core classes, allowing them to choose one of four branches in their second year.

The programs with the smallest enrolments are the post-graduate programs. "These programs are designated to be small because of their specialty. Post-graduate programs are a source of growth in a particular field the student chooses," says Vaughan. The post-graduate programs at Niagara College are evenly split with college and university graduates making up the classes, says Vaughan.

The new programs this year did "above their projections . . . virtually every program having business (was) wait-listed quite early in the summer," says Vaughan.

The process to start a new program for Niagara begins with "extensive research" done with the college, employers and Human Resources Development Canada to "consult and survey a number of local companies to see what kind of jobs they project."

"The college has to respond to changes in the job market to add a program or phase one out," says Vaughan, adding, "Sometimes enrolment is still very strong, but other things change." The Nursing program at Niagara College was an example of strong enrolment but one that was still phased out. Vaughan says that at the time there was downsizing in the hospitals and the job market wasn't good for nurses. "Usually the same time we realize the job prospects are going down, the students notice," says Vaughan. "The nursing grads were then going to the States (United States) for jobs."

Niagara College gets 40 per cent of first-year students directly from high school. The college starts its visits early in the fall to high schools and participates in a College Information Program. This program has all the community colleges working together holding information sessions, like "education fairs" at schools.

Vaughan says the "most important" thing high school students should do is "think hard, ask questions and do research . . . The choice of college should be a good match to both the student and the college. We don't want them choosing a program not suited for their needs."

"The common question asked from high school students is about co-op (co-operative education)," says Vaughan. "Students find that co-op makes contacts and they learn that field."

Of the 72 programs available at Niagara College, 20 of them offer co-op.

"Co-op has proven to be rather popular," says Vaughan, adding, "It's a paid co-op with a whole separate term integrated into the program.

Drinks are served across the new bar, one of the many renovations at After Hours, the college pub, over the summer.

Photo by Ryan McLaughlin

COVERING THE CAMPUSES

Showcase of Chefs coming to Maid of the Mist

By MATT WATLING
Staff Writer

Niagara College has teamed up with local chefs and wineries to present the Showcase of Chefs, to be held at the Maid of the Mist campus in Niagara Falls.

The Showcase features Niagara region chefs, wineries and the students of the Culinary Arts program at the Niagara Falls campus. The six-evening dinner series begins on Oct. 16.

"We want to showcase chefs in the area," says Mark Hand, 38, food and beverage manager for Niagara College. "We want to showcase the wineries and let people know we are involved with them. We have a lot of great people in the area and we want to show them off."

Each dinner features an area chef and winery, eventually leading to the gala dinner on Sunday, March 25, 2001, when all chefs and wineries come together. The gala dinner is known as the Academy Awards of Food, in which an awards show theme is used in presenting each course.

"It's corny (the theme of the dinner) but that night it's fantastic," says Hand. "People get right into it. We thought of changing the theme of the gala, but it's just real popular."

Hand says this dinner provides a "great opportunity" for the students to work and gain experience with local chefs. "That's what it's about for the students — just getting involved, leaving an impression with the visiting chefs and using it to your (the student's) advantage down the road," he says. "For them (it's) to learn something, see a different style and hopefully network their way into a job when they finish school."

Although not much money is made from this event, Hand says the proceeds from the dinners will go directly to the Maid of the Mist building fund for future expansion of the school. New equipment for the program is a possibility.

He mentioned the importance of making connections in the food industry for the college. "We love the industry tie. Bringing industry into the college looks good on the college. The more industry input we can have, the better the programs will become (and) the better the students are serviced."

Hand says the dinners have become "extremely popular," with last year's event selling out in about 10 days. "It's turned into a monster. It's become so popular," says Hand, when talking about the success of the dinner.

Calling (905) 374-7454, ext. 4252, can reserve tickets for the event. This year's prices are $65 for each evening and $130 for the Gala dinner. Hand says the prices are slightly higher this year, but the quality of the dinner will be worth the value of a ticket.

The Showcase will feature Chef Wolfgang Sterr of the Wildflower Restaurant and the wines of Chateau Charmes on Oct. 16. Chef Mark Picone of Vineland Estates is slated for Nov. 20, while Dec. 11 belongs to Chef Roberto Fracchioni of On The Twenty with the wines of Cave Spring Cellars. On Jan. 22, 2001, the husband and wife team of Chef Tim O'Donnell of the Hilton, in Niagara Falls, and Catharine O'Donnell of Hillebrand Vineyard Café will start off the new year. Finally, on Feb. 19, 2001, it's Chefs Barry Burton and Paul Pennock of the Niagara Parks Commission and the wines of Malivoire.

The Maid of the Mist Kerrio Dining Room Team celebrate another promising showcase. Shown from left are J. Mark Hand, Rosa Fierimonte, Wendy Young, Margaret Rinderlin, Vincenza Smith, Jim McClean and Sharon Coyle. Absent is Andres Mundy.

Photo by Matt Watling

New residence at Glendale makes life easier for students

By PAUL FINELLI
Staff Writer

Out-of-town students attending Niagara College's Glendale campus this year at last have a home just a hop, skip and jump away from their classes.

There will be no more bussing back and forth from Niagara-on-the-Lake to the Welland residence, previously the college's only student residence, or scrambling to find any available and affordable living quarters before the start of fall classes.

Its construction having begun last year, the new six-storey, 60,000-square-foot student residence and conference centre is up and running at full student capacity, said college officials.

"It's a great facility," said Darrell Neufeld, executive assistant to the college president. "It really enhances, I think, the attractiveness of the college to incoming students. We're very pleased we were able to construct and have it built on time." Several students of the campus's brand-new Business Administration-Professional Golf Management program, whose classes began on Sept. 25, were among the last to move in, he added.

Neufeld stressed the newest addition to the college, with a cost of about $7 million, was "self-financed," meaning none of the cash came from college or government money. The project was funded through a capital loan, he explained. "The facility will pay for itself through student (residential) fees . . . over several years."

Steve Hudson, vice-president of corporate services, echoed Neufeld's sentiment that the building will pay for itself with future room rentals. The Bank of Montreal was the loan provider, Hudson said.

The facility can accommodate 202 students in 101 two-room suites. Each suite contains two separate lockable bedrooms, a kitchenette with a full-size refrigerator and microwave, and a three-piece bathroom including a shower. Each bedroom is equipped with colour cable television, and as in the Welland residence, a high-speed data port enabling students to connect to the college's server and the World Wide Web. Additionally, as part of the conference facilities there are six meeting rooms.

Still, the building was not entirely finished even as late as mid-September, as is evident by the presence of construction workers still laying the final touches inside and outside the building. As two examples, all the tiles in the main foyer were not laid, nor was the concrete filled at the front entrance.

"We focused so much on the suites so the students can get in," said Laura Lorge, head housekeeper and soon-to-be manager-in-training. "Everybody's been great . . . (like) the plumbers. We're just trying to do the beautifying right now." While the common areas were still unfinished, she added that the students were already planning their first movie night in the lounges.

The residence and conference complex was designed by Moffat Kinoshita of Hamilton and built by Buttcon Limited of Toronto.

Doing hard time!

No, these students aren't doing hard time! Students of the Landscape III course get hands-on practice while developing horticultural space at Niagara College's Glendale campus in Niagara-on-the-Lake. The course is part of an intensive two-year Landscape Technician (Co-op) program, offered under the campus's School of Horticulture and Agribusiness Studies.

Photo by Paul Finelli

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Niagara News

2000 PUBLICATION DATES

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Oct. 13/00
Oct. 27/00
Nov. 10/00
Nov. 24/00
Dec. 8/00

2001 PUBLICATION DATES

Jan. 19/01
Jan. 26/01
Feb. 2/01
Feb. 9/01
Feb. 16/01
March 9/01
March 16/01
March 23/01
April 6/01
April 20/01

NEWSMAKERS

Pulitzer candidates in training win awards

The seven second-year Journalism-Print program winners are Rachel Montour (left), Laura Ricciuto, Paul Finelli, Stephen D'Orazio, Kevin Hartford, Heidi Morrison and Christine Chaloner.
Photo by Jhim Burwell

Seven second-year Niagara College Journalism-Print program students were recently awarded scholarships and plaques on behalf of the college's Board of Governors for their studies during their first year at the college.

The student winners are the following: Christine Chaloner, 19, of St. Catharines, who received the St. Catharines Standard Journalism Scholarship for demonstrating a flair for writing and a promise to become a good reporter; Stephen D'Orazio, 20, of Welland, who received the Philip Mansfield Memorial Scholarship for demonstrating academic achievement; Paul Finelli, 25, of Niagara Falls, who received the Niagara Falls Review Journalism Scholarship for demonstrating an interest, flair and an ability to become a good reporter; Kevin Hartford, 20, of Leamington, Ont., who received the Niagara/Baie Comeau Community Foundation (Donohue) Scholarship valued at $400; Heidi Morrison, 19, of Janetville, Ont., who received the Welland Tribune Journalism Scholarship for demonstrating an ability and dedication to be a good reporter; Rachel Montour, 21, of Ohsweken, Ont., who received the Philip Mansfield Memorial Scholarship for demonstrating academic achievement; and Laura Ricciuto, 20, of Niagara Falls, who received the Larry Smith Journalism Scholarship for demonstrating excellence in reporting and news writing. Smith was a longtime editor at the St. Catharines Standard.

The Journalism-Print program will publish 16 editions of the Niagara News. The publishing dates are Sept. 29, Oct. 13, Oct. 27, Nov. 10, Nov. 24, Dec. 8, Jan. 19, 2001, Jan. 26, Feb. 2, Feb. 9, Feb. 16, March 9, March 16, March 23, April 6 and April 20.

The writing, editing, photography and pagination are done by the program's 35 second-year students.

The printing of 5,000 copies for each edition is done by Can-Web Printing Inc. in Grimsby.

Anyone wishing to advertise in the Niagara News should contact Ron Crowley at Ext. 7748.

Pump it up: CRNC growing stronger every day

By KRISTIN COLLVER
Staff Writer

Pump up the volume because Campus Radio Niagara College (CRNC) is getting stronger.

That's right, Niagara College's campus radio is looking for more power.

Ron Tufts, broadcasting instructor and manager of the campus radio station, is preparing the new licence application for a developmental license. This is a new licence issued by the Canadian Radio-television and Telecommunications Commission (CRTC) specifically for colleges and certain community groups, to allow them to put together developmental radio stations.

Tufts says the transmitter for the station was worked on all summer and is now located on the top of the Simcoe building, but it is still being tested. Broadcasting at three watts, the station can be heard from Highway 20 to the southwest end of Welland and into Fonthill, as well as in the school itself, now being able to reach areas of the school which in the past received a faint signal.

If the station is granted the licence, it will be good for three years, and the station will be able to broadcast at five watts, "an improved five watts," said Tufts.

With a developmental licence, the campus can run the station during the school year and be off air during the summer months.

"If you are a good corporate citizen, and you do well with the licence, then you can do a quick re-application and get what is called a community licence, where you can go up to 50 watts," said Tufts.

The station right now means a lot to broadcasting students, said Tufts. "It gives the students room to get great real-world experience, and their expertise can go up." The students also have a lot of input as to how the station should operate and as to what they think should be aired.

The station is on air 24 hours a day and is operated by second year students. The main music type for the station consists of adult contemporary, adult alternative, pop, hip hop and alternative. The station broadcasts a variety of shows. Starting at 9 a.m. and running all day until 6 p.m. CRNC programming consists of some specialty shows such as jazz, sports and blues, and is planning to have a Thursday night pre-pub show.

Graphic supplied by Kevin Grice.

90.1 FM CRNC
Campus Radio Niagara College
Chart

1. Matchbox 20 – **Bent**
2. Janet Jackson – **Doesn't Really Matter**
3. Pink – **Most Girls**
4. Barenaked Ladies – **Pinch Me**
5. Everclear – **Wonderful**
6. Nine Days – **Absolutely (Story of a Girl)**
7. Madonna – **Music**
8. Next – **Wifey**
9. Vertical Horizon – **You're a God**
10. Britney Spears – **Lucky**
11. Don Henley – **They're Not Here...**
12. Snow – **Everyone Wants To Be Like You**
13. McMaster & James – **I Understand**
14. Moffats – **Bang Bang Boom**
15. Aaliyah – **Try Again**
16. Sister Hazel – **Change Your Mind**
17. Bon Jovi – **It's My Life**
18. Third Eye Blind – **Deep Inside of You**
19. Creed – **With Arms Wide Open**
20. Robbie Williams – **Rock DJ**

Music Directors: Sharon Sturgeon – weezelz@hotmail.com
Kevin MacDonald – big_macd@hotmail.com
Phone: 905-735-2211 ext: 7430
Web site: www.homestead.com/brtfpresentation/crnc.html
This space edited by CRNC

EDITORIAL

The Niagara News is a practical lab for the Journalism-Print program, covering the college community and other areas of interest.
Opinions expressed are not necessarily those of the management of the Niagara News or the administration of
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Save now for financial security later

You're young. You're a college student. You're planning your dream career that will leave you rich and famous.

I bet while you're out, spending your money like there's no tomorrow, you've never even contemplated investing some of that money, have you?

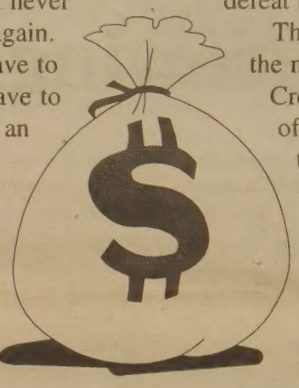
All the long hours of studying and working are invested in hopes of never having to budget money to last the week, after you graduate. Think again.

As this may be the case for a select few, the majority of us will have to compete for the few low-paying jobs available. If this is what we have to look forward to once we step into the "real world," perhaps creating an investment portfolio will assist you with future finances.

I know you're thinking I'm crazy for suggesting such a thing, but it is within your budget.

Saving for your future is not as difficult as you think.

Financial institutions and banks can arrange pre-authorized savings plans that automatically debit your account. The pre-selected amount can be placed into a Registered Retirement Savings Plan (RRSP) or similar investment.



The amount you contribute to your savings is totally up to you. It can be as little as $5 a week to as much as $250 a month or more, depending on your budget.

Once the money is locked into a plan, you can retrieve it, but you will have to pay taxes or an interest penalty for withdrawing your funds early. Don't do it. You'll defeat the money growth purpose of your financial planning.

The bonus? You'll find you can live comfortably and never miss putting the money aside.

Creating an investment portfolio while you're young is the key. The point of investing now is to have your money work for you longer. This will in turn leave you with a much heftier sum of cash in the end.

Set aside a few dollars each week now and worry a lot less in the future . . . at least about your finances.

As the old saying goes, "A penny saved is a penny earned."

They just forgot to add that the longer the penny is saved, the more earning it does.

Laura T. Ricciuto

Canada game show market in jeopardy

Go ahead and spin that wheel. In the form of a question, which one of you survivors would like to be a millionaire? Is that your final answer?

Television game shows have taken over and it's only the beginning. Come on down and I'll tell you what the television industry has in store for us: useless trivia that makes the average person feel smart, boosting our self-esteems, and coercing us to watch more Regis.

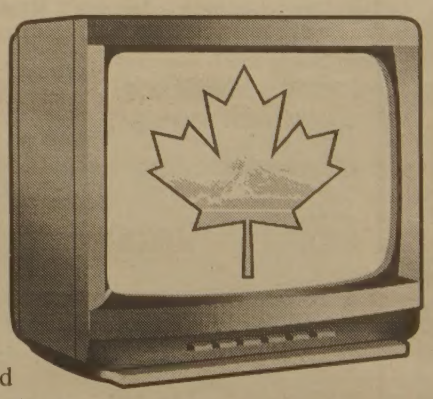
The fact that we are watching people eat rats and live larvae isn't as disturbing as the fact that Canada has now jumped on the bandwagon.

Name the last Canadian game show that was original and good? (It's OK, you can use a lifeline if you need to.)

Remember $40,000 Chain Reaction, maybe Let's Make a Deal? These shows were produced in Canada, but how many years ago?

If we can't think of a new show, we can't copycat the United States. Pamela Wallin sure tried on her Who Wants to be a Millionaire — Canadian version, but she just isn't Regis.

The next thing we'll see is Survivor — Canadian version, or How to Survive in Nunavut.



Here's my advice to Canada and the game show people.

First, the price isn't right. Who wants to be a millionaire just isn't the same when the contestants convert their winnings into Canadian money and are playing who wants to be half a millionaire.

Second, the price isn't right. This is meant for the host this time. Canada doesn't have the money like Hollywood Squares to have special guest star Whoopi Goldberg every day. Without the big stars, you won't get big ratings.

Canada should stop using its last lifeline on a 50-50 chance game show and start spending time and money producing its own educational and entertaining shows.

Christine Chaloner

Your voice or opinion is welcome in our Letters to the Editor section. Our policy regarding letter submissions is this: All letters must be received on the Friday one week prior to publication. Each letter must include the writer's name, college identification number and program of study.
All letters must be signed and include a day and evening telephone number for verification use only.
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PERSPECTIVES

Weezer makes emotional comeback

By SCOTT THOMSON
Staff Writer
Column

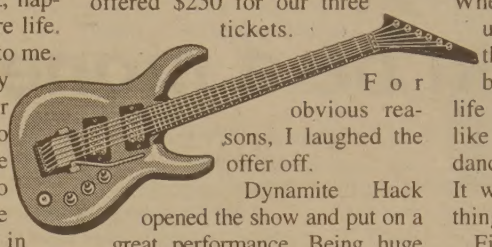
Inspiration takes many forms. As human beings, life would be pointless without the occasional moment that completely engulfs us in emotion. Passion, lust, happiness and sorrow all inspire life. On Aug. 31, this happened to me.

It was 4 p.m. on a Friday and I was getting ready for my big move back to Welland when the phone rang. I was offered a ticket to go see Weezer play at the Phoenix Concert theatre in Toronto.

Since the age of 14 I've loved them and always wanted to see them live. They only came to Toronto once or twice before and I was much too young to go see them, but now I am 20.

The ticket cost $26, but it could have cost $100 and I would have still paid.

When we got out of the car the lineup was about two city blocks long. Within 30 seconds we were offered $250 for our three tickets.



For obvious reasons, I laughed the offer off.

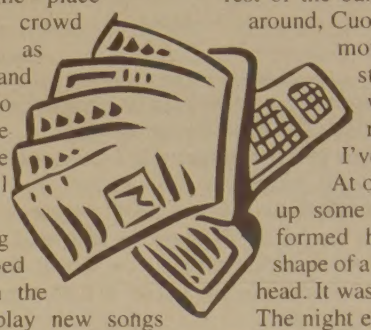
Dynamite Hack opened the show and put on a great performance. Being huge Weezer fans themselves they kept making comments about how unbelievable it was to be on tour with them. By the time they left the stage I think everyone in the building had a smile.

Weezer has not played a concert for about four years because lead singer Rivers Cuomo was away at university. The crowd was really anticipating what was to come.

The wait between sets was long. Chants of "Weezer" filled the air. When one of the band's road crew unveiled a huge Weezer logo, the crowd started to sing. I've been to many concerts in my life but I've never seen anything like this. People were singing and dancing without a band on stage. It was one of the most moving things I've witnessed.

Finally, after an eternity, the band started.

They opened with *My Name is Jonas* and the place erupted. The crowd was singing as loudly as the band was playing. No one in the place forgot the words. We all sang.



The singing never stopped though. When the band would play new songs from its forthcoming album, the people sang.

I think the band was shocked at the response. At one point Cuomo looked out at us and just said, "Thank you."

They played nearly every song they have, without many breaks.

They controlled the stage like no other band I've seen. While the rest of the bandmembers jumped around, Cuomo just stood there motionless, staring straight ahead. He was the most methodical person I've ever seen.

At one point he messed up some lyrics. Calmly, he formed his hand into the shape of a gun and put it to his head. It was painful to watch.

The night ended with the song *Surf Wax America* and the crowd filed out to the streets. Everyone was in awe. I must have heard the phrase "best concert ever" at least 100 times.

I guess the crowd was right because it was the best.

Thank you.

Finding ways to dodge cyber system

By TARA FORD
Staff Writer
Column

I've been shafted by Metallica. I now have one word for them: rude.

I am sure every one of you has either used or, at least, has heard of Napster. I think I lived downloading songs from it for the past year. Recently I tried to log on and I got a message saying I was "banned by Metallica." I was thinking at the time this must be a joke, but it wasn't.

Boy, was I angry. I decided to go to the Web site that Napster referred me to when it delivered the bad news. On this Web site, it said that I had "infringed upon" Metallica's rights by downloading their music. I am having trouble understanding that.

People who share their music online are giving business to bands that have CDs and/or have new music coming out. People listen to

the songs, decide they like what they hear, and then go out and buy the CD so that they can listen to it on their stereo. I don't see anything wrong with that.

Last week, a friend referred me to a much less publicized site: www.scourexchange.com. It operates on the same basis as Napster, in that you can share your music with other people online. I downloaded it and for the past couple of days I have been downloading my music nonstop.

The point is that we are always going to find ways to dodge the system. So there, Metallica. What do you think of that?

On this Web site, it said that I had 'infringed upon' Metallica's rights

Eating critters for 39 days for prize of US $1 million

By PATRICIA HUGHES
Staff Writer
Column

Rats, snakes and alliances.

If you don't know what I'm talking about by now, I'd like to know how you spent your summer.

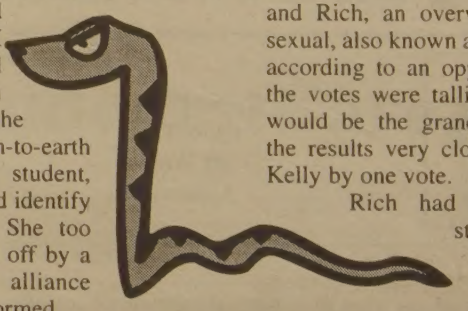
For those of you who were off the planet, Survivor, this year's most popular television show, aired on Global every Wednesday at 8 p.m.

I thought I'd be spending another summer watching repeats of Dawson's Creek and Friends, but then I heard there was a new game show. It was about 16 people stranded on a deserted Pacific island for 39 days. The object of the game was to survive without being voted off by opponents. The winner received $1 million US.

I thought I'd be spending another summer watching repeats of Dawson's Creek and Friends . . .

Curious, I watched the first episode. Within 10 minutes I was hooked. I couldn't wait to watch it every week. After a few weeks I felt as if I knew each of the players, as if I were on the island with them. The host, Jeff Probst, ended each episode by intoning, "The tribe has spoken."

At the beginning, I wanted Jenna, — a young, sensitive, single mom — to win because she could use the money. After she was voted off, I switched to Colleen because she is a down-to-earth struggling student, and I could identify with her. She too was voted off by a strategic alliance that was formed.



I then switched to Kelly, a whitewater river guide, because the alliance, of which she was a member, started to turn against her. I felt sorry for her and admired her determination, as she was able to stand for hours in the sun without any food or water.

It came down to Kelly, the "rat," and Rich, an overweight homosexual, also known as the "snake," according to an opponent. When the votes were tallied as to who would be the grand prizewinner the results very close. Rich beat Kelly by one vote.

Rich had planned his strategy before he got to the island. One of the first things he emphasized was "I'm not here to make friends, I'm here to play the game" and that he did.

There will be another Survivor show airing in January. This time it takes place in the Australian Outback.

For now, "the tribe has spoken."

PERSPECTIVES

Summer term a learning experience

By AARON YZERMAN
Staff Writer
Column

It seems it was only a few weeks ago I finished my first year of college and now I'm back for second year.

I started the Journalism-Print program in January of this year so I was in school from May through July. In that three-month period, I had six courses, as in the previous term. The catch is in the pacing of those six courses.

Four of them were conducted through the whole three months, a time frame which is the equivalent of four months of work compressed into that period. The other two courses were condensed into a six-week period, which normally would have been over four months. It was a busy term, but a good time-management experience. I didn't know the purpose of the January starting option was to catch you up with the students who started in the term before you, but we do what we have to do, I suppose.

The January start class began with nine students and ended with three. Matt Watling, Collin Coulis and I were the remaining students at the end of the summer term, which wrapped up on July 21.

It went quickly, and looking back on it I don't remember how that term went so fast. One thing that stands out in my head was the emptiness of the school. It was kind of like a grocery store on a Sunday. It's very large, but it seems there should be more people around buying food. Maybe I picked a bad time to do my shopping, but I got the groceries I needed all the same.

I can remember that feeling in my stomach I would get during my childhood when I saw television commercials around the end of August. The words "back to school" sure could ruin my day. I worried and worried for weeks about it and couldn't get a minute of sleep the night before school started again. I think my reaction is different now. I had no trouble sleeping the night before school this fall, so perhaps it's a good omen.

I'm now able to accept the idea that I have to go to school to "qualify" me, on one level or another, for what I would like to do when I leave school behind. It was strange being in this place during the summer months, but when I consider how it prepared me for being busy and learning to deal with these issues, maybe it was for the best.

Standing up against law can be a money saver

By LAURA T. RICCIUTO
Staff Writer
Column

Being a good Samaritan sometimes comes with an expensive price tag.

Enroute to Niagara College's Welland campus early one Friday, I noticed the Niagara Regional Police had radar set up.

To see this setup was not an uncommon occurrence, as it is their attempt to catch and deter speeders on their morning commute.

At eight o'clock on this foggy morning, I noticed an oncoming vehicle traveling slightly above the posted speed limit.

Poor guy, I thought to myself as I realized he was about to be nabbed with a hefty ticket. Reacting in a way many have warned me against in the past, I flashed my headlights.

I noticed his speed declining and within seconds, to my surprise, I heard that dreaded siren.

I looked to my rearview mirror and saw the treacherous flashing lights of the police cruiser. I quickly realized they were meant for me and I immediately pulled to the side of the country road.

A million thoughts were going through my mind as to why I was being stopped.

Having seen the cruiser set up blocks down the road, I was able to monitor my own speed. This eliminated all possible chances for a speeding ticket, so why was I being pulled over?

Within a short time, a uniformed officer approached my vehicle and asked the usual "Know why I pulled you over?" and with complete honesty I answered, "No Sir, I don't."

This response did not sit well with the officer. He questioned me as to why I thought the radar was set up.

Again, I responded "To be honest with you, I don't know."

He assured me that it was not set up "for the fun of it."

After requesting my licence and registration, which I handed over without delay, the officer proceeded to tell me that because I flashed my lights he could have me charged with "obstruction of justice."

Not only would this mean a ticket, it meant me possibly having a permanent record.

The officer went to his cruiser and in no hurry returned, about 20 minutes later, with a ticket.

Showing me the yellow and white form, explaining my charge of "failure to use lower beams towards oncoming traffic," the officer said he decided to charge me with the lesser of the two fines.

I guess this is the time he expected me to thank him for only handing me the $105 infraction.

My licence, registration and ticket were delivered, as well as the advice from the overly confident officer that I shouldn't attempt the trial option, as "nobody" would believe that I was, in his words "adjusting my lights."

I took my papers in hand and continued on my way to class. For the rest of the drive to school I tried to calculate how many long, hard hours I would have to work to pay this fine.

I had 15 days to decide how I would handle this case, choosing from the three pre-set options.

I could choose guilty (pay the set fine); guilty with an explanation (usually results in a lesser fine); not guilty (trial option).

After rereading my options carefully, I chose the trial option and decided to fight this charge and defend my case in front of the Justice of the Peace (JP).

First of all, I was being charged with driving with my high headlight beams, something I did not do. Any experienced driver would agree that if you drive with high beams under foggy conditions, I would have only been obscuring my vision, as the glare from the lights would reflect back.

Second, at five minutes past eight in the morning, how could the officer decipher whether I was driving with high beams or if they were just the bright daytime running lights, that all newer vehicles are equipped with?

Anyway, "speeding" things right along, three months later my case finally came to trial. Because of the charge, and the delay of previous cases that morning, my case was dismissed and the charges were withdrawn.

A lot of people are hesitant to take their tickets to court, but I strongly suggest if you feel you have been wrongly accused, stand up for your rights and fight the ticket.

In a worst case scenario, you lose and pay the same fine that you would have had to pay in the first place. If you are busted anyway, explain to the JP that you're a student. You can then request additional time to pay, up to a maximum of six months.

This might not seem like much, but if you're tight on cash it can literally be a lifesaver.

Just remember, you win some and lose some, but on this particular day, an hour out of my time saved me over $100 . . . and that's one chance I'm willing to take.

Living on a shoestring: a student's perspective on budget living

By NAUMAN FAROOQ
Staff Writer
Column

Money, money, money.

Ask most students what their biggest problem or concern is living away from home, and the dominant answer will be money, soon followed by girlfriend/boyfriend issues.

As a student living away from home, I encountered the first problem.

I lived on a tight budget, and having just enough knowledge to boil water and not much else, I have to rely on the chefs at the various fast-food outlets in town to keep myself nourished.

That doesn't make costs any cheaper, but there are ways to solve that problem.

I divided the total amount of money I get to keep me going by the number of days in the month. With that figure, I try to make the cost of purchases total or come under that figure. I also began hunting for cheaper food specials, and I'd feed myself on them. There are plenty of specials to keep you going, if you look properly.

I have a car, so gas is another problem, especially with rising prices. For this, I use a gas card, which not only gives me discounts but also keeps my hard cash intact. Parking costs are another problem so I made a deal with my transportation-less roommate, who wanted a ride to the college every day. Because we live about a 40-minute walk away, and walking can be tiresome after a while, I said, "Look, mate. If you want me to haul your bum around to college every day, you better pay for the parking pass." Seeing that my offer is a better deal than a bus pass, and I do door-to-door service, he wisely agreed. That is now one less expense for me to worry about.

. . . having just enough knowledge to boil water and not much else, I have to rely on the chefs at the various fast-food outlets in town to keep myself nourished.

OK, entertainment expenses time. Like most students, I do enjoy a night out at the movies every once in a while. For that, I decided to only go to the movies on Tuesday, because it's cheap night at the movies. Since there is no difference between the movies they show on Tuesday, as opposed to any other night, this is a much better deal.

Then came my crowning achievement. I got myself a part-time job.

This recommendation is not mandatory. If you can afford to live without a job, then by all means do so, and don't mix work with studies. However, I needed the money, and I think I'm fairly good at time management, so I got a job. The burden of work did influence my study time, but I think I'm not doing too badly.

Compared with other students I've spoken to, I think I'm doing fairly well financially. At least I'm not relying on student loans that I'll be stuck with paying for the rest of my life.

If you observe some students, you'd believe they were millionaires. They seem to believe they'll be in college only once and better to enjoy their days of careless youth than be sensible and economical. I often wonder that if we all end up with similar-paying jobs 10 years from now, who will be driving a better car and for what reason?

I very probably would, because not only do I believe I have a better taste in cars, I'd actually have the money to buy something nice.

To all new students at Niagara College, I suggest you do party and do have the time of your life. Sure, these days will never come again and you should have fond memories of your time here, but do spend your money wisely. I think you would all want to leave your college life behind with pleasant memories and not endless unpleasant debts.

SAC

Tuition fee hike 'necessary': SAC president

By HEIDI MORRISON
Staff Writer

A $148 fee was added to your tuition.

That's right. If you're a student attending Niagara College, you paid a compulsory Student Administrative Council (SAC) fee as part of your tuition.

A $148 fee was added to your tuition.

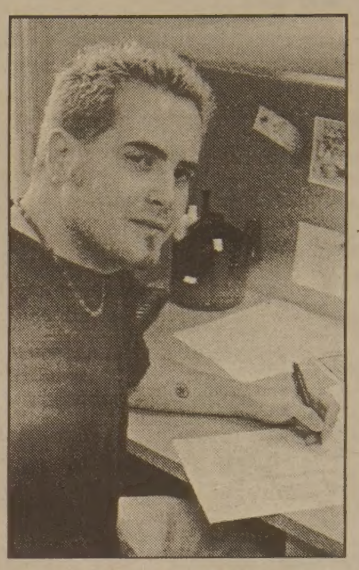
Asked if he felt this was a fair price for students, Ryan McLaughlin, SAC president of the Welland campus, says, "I think it's a necessary price."

"It's calculated year to year. It's called the fee protocol committee and they assess what the cost will be for students for all the things that student administrative council does."

For the 2000-2001 academic year, SAC received $802,500. This may seem like a large number, but not "when you break it down," says McLaughlin.

The SAC operating budget includes such expenses as student scholarships, athletics, peer tutoring and the arcade room addition at After Hours, the on-campus pub.

"Generally speaking, the expenses versus the income are about the same," says 23-year-old McLaughlin.



RYAN MCLAUGHLIN

Although the budget is public information, McLaughlin says he feels a lot of students don't think about it. "Just looking at it, the numbers are kind of boring and they're easily misunderstood. You look at that and it's a large chunk of money, but divided over 5,000 students, it's really not that much."

The budget is broken into different categories, which can include a number of things. One category is *miscellaneous*. He explains, "For example, we're selling books right now, for junior B hockey. We sell them for $20. We buy them for $15 and we keep $5. What we're doing with that $5 is giving it right back to the students by buying grocery vouchers for students in need of food."

SAC is largely involved with After Hours. "Anything that happens in After Hours at all is all through us, which some people don't know. We're budgeted differently, but the money all comes from the same place, " says McLaughlin.

'I think it's a necessary price.'

In the end, what do the SAC members have to do with this year's operating budget? "We, as council, OK it. We go through each one and if there's a problem, or if we need to up a certain area or lower a certain area, we do that."

SAC forced to initiate staff restructuring

By BILL STEPHENSON
Staff Writer

The Student Administrative Council (SAC) was left with three options to find a new vice-president of campus affairs last summer, says Ryan McLaughlin, SAC president.

The first option, which wasn't put into action, was to hold another election in the summer. However, the potential for a lack of student voters made this impossible.

The second option didn't pass either. It was for SAC to hold an election in the fall. McLaughlin says SAC didn't want to wait until fall to have a new council, and if an election was held early in the year "new people wouldn't know about SAC."

SAC decided to turn to option three: ask the runner-up to take the place of Clinton Haggart, former vice-president of campus affairs. Haggart, a first-year Journalism-Print program student at the time, was forced to step down because of a low grade average. The required average is 65 per cent, says Lou Dimattio, assistant director of student services.

'I can keep my eyes on Ryan and make sure he's doing his job right.' — Clinton Haggart

Haggart's runner-up was Mike Reles, but Reles changed campuses and could not take on the position. SAC asked the runner up for the presidential race to take on the position.

Haggart is now one of the two class representatives for the Journalism-Print program. "This way I can still be a part of SAC," says Haggart, adding not being the vice-president of campus affairs will give him a better chance to excel in his schoolwork. "I can keep my eyes on Ryan and make sure he's doing his job right."

McLaughlin says he gave everyone the benefit of the doubt to start with. "I just wish people had a better conscience of what they were doing."

Big Brothers' nine-foot tent stolen from courtyard

By COLLIN COULIS
Staff Writer

A tent was stolen from the Big Brothers of South Niagara while they were recruiting volunteers at Niagara College's Welland campus, on Sunday, Sept.3.

The nine-foot-by-nine-foot grey and white-striped shade tent disappeared from the courtyard at the Student Residence some time after 4 p.m.

"I know all about pranks; I was a student once too," says Greg Whelan, executive director of Big Brothers. He added it may not have been a student who is the thief but hopes students attending the event or students who live in residence may have seen who took it.

Whelan says the tent, which costs about $350, isn't covered by insurance and because Big Brothers is a non-profit agency there is no money to replace the cost of the tent.

A report has been filed with the Niagara Regional Police, but officials from Big Brothers say they are hoping for the "no questions asked" return of the tent.

Anyone with information on the tent's whereabouts can contact the Big Brothers at (905) 735-0570.

Whelan says 16 per cent of the Big Brothers of South Niagara's volunteers are Niagara College students.

SAC president attempts to boost student awareness

By HEATHER RUTA
Staff Writer

He wants you to be involved.

Ryan McLaughlin, 23, of Welland, was elected Student Administrative Council (SAC) president for the Welland campus at the end of March and took office May 1.

'Overall, I hope to increase students awareness of what SAC is.'

"When I was running for SAC president, one of my concerns was the lack of involvement of the students and also the class representatives.

"One of my goals this year is to come up with a system that promotes involvement by the class reps. Overall, I hope to increase students awareness of what SAC is," said McLaughlin, a second-year student in the Journalism-Print program. "The low involvement of students doesn't please me but I don't think it's easy to pinpoint why there is low involvement.

"I think by creating something that the student body can get behind, it will perpetuate student involvement by making something that they believe in and they will want to get more involved.

"I think that as a student council we're going to have to feel out the problem areas and see what the students want."

McLaughlin said he hopes "through increased awareness of what we do on SAC, it would give the students a better understanding and make it easier to take part."

This year, McLaughlin says SAC hopes to introduce new activities involving more students as well as repeating successful past activities.

'Some of the things that are important to me, and still are, are increasing awareness of SAC activities and student issues to the students.'

"In the near future we are planning to have a giant inflatable foosball table where teams will compete just as the actual players on the table would," he said. "We would also like to plan an excursion to a concert to see a band with a wide fan base so that we are not catering to a certain crowd or group of people."

Repeat events planned for this year are the Alcohol Awareness Week, Food for Friends (a student food drive) and the Sexual Awareness Week.

"We are also thinking about taking part in a Narcotics Awareness Week but it's still very early in the year. We haven't had a lot of chances to begin planning events too far into the future."

McLaughlin said he wanted to take on the role of SAC president because "as a student representative last year, I was introduced to the responsibilities that would fall upon me. Also the ability to see things change for the benefit of everyone, that appealed to me."

"Although not having an overly strong student government background, my toughest task is discovering where I am needed and also where to delegate responsibilities to others."

McLaughlin laughs, saying his favourite part of the job is "the free pop at the pub is a small perk, but, seriously, my favourite part is interacting with my fellow students and getting to know people I normally wouldn't have had the opportunity to have met."

"Some of the things that are important to me, and still are, are increasing awareness of SAC activities and student issues to the students. SAC now has a Web page and we also plan to use that as a new medium to get info across. Our main priority is to make ourselves more accessible to the students."

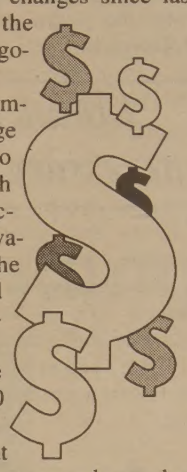
PRESIDENT'S VIEW

Patterson speaks out on college progress

By CALUM McNEIL
Staff Writer

If bigger is better, Niagara College will be getting a lot better during the next year.

College President Dan Patterson says the school has been going through many changes since last spring, and the process is ongoing.



This past summer, the college continued to expand with new construction and renovations at the Glendale and Welland campuses.

The college spent $250,000 replacing the gym floor at the Welland campus and completed the student residence at Glendale for a cost of $7.2 million. The Glendale residence can accommodate 200 students.

The residence in Welland is undergoing an expansion at a cost of $5.6 million. The expansion, to be finished by next year, will add 140 beds and 70 units to the existing building.

'Tuition should remain stable during the next few years.'

The college has added several new programs this year, says Patterson. Professional Golf Management, International Business, Winery and Viticulture Technician, Greenhouse Technician and a post-graduate Tourism Development program are the newest additions to Niagara College's programming He says the college tries to develop programs suited to the economy of Niagara.

He says there has been a huge increase in the number of international students attending the college. "We have doubled the number of post-secondary international students studying at Niagara. There are now 270 students from 14 countries attending the college."

Patterson says having international students raises the profile of the college outside Canada and help s prepare Canadian students for the multicultural realities of the modern workplace.

"We have been very innovative and successful at attracting top-notch students. We feel it provides a richer experience for local Niagara students to work and study with people from different cultures."

Student enrolment at Niagara is up this year. Confirmed acceptances to the college are up 3.7 per cent, compared with the provincial average of 0.1 per cent. Though more students are choosing Niagara, Patterson says the increase poses a challenge in financing the programs to meet student demand.

Niagara College President Dan Patterson.
Photo by Calum McNeil

"One of the challenges we face in funding is that enrolments increase yearly, but the operating grant doesn't increase sufficiently to meet demand on revenue."

One way the college has dealt with this financial crunch is to secure private-sector partnerships, says Patterson. "Increasingly colleges are turning to private-sector partnerships to help cover costs for educational programming. It's our main vehicle to offset smaller government increases."

The college has partnerships with companies such as General Motors, Canadian Tire and Microsoft. Niagara failed to secure any new private-sector funding during the summer. Funding includes cash donations, equipment and expertise.

Despite the struggle to meet student demand, the college is anticipating a small surplus for the fiscal year 2000-2001, says Patterson.

The president says tuition will increase two per cent a year during the next three years.

"Tuition should remain stable during the next few years. We are aware, however, that while tuition remains stable, costs continue to remain a problem for students."

Patterson says the college has increased its efforts to provide more scholarships and some work-study initiatives to help students offset high costs.

He pointed to a $750,000 federal grant, which the college will use to develop a Virtual Reality Lab at the Glendale campus. "The lab will be an enormous help to our tech programs." It will, for example, allow an engine design to be simulated and tested by the user. This will save time and money for students by preventing expensive design mistakes, says Patterson. The facility is expected to open in 2001.

'We have been very innovative and successful at attracting top-notch students.'

Niagara has invested in new computer software called People Soft. The $2-million software will be used for student and financial information, and human resources. "We have 16 people working on various aspects of implementation over the next year to ensure a successful transition to the new system," says Patterson.

Tuition increases two per cent this year

By SCOTT ROSTS
Staff Writer

The two-per-cent increase in tuition Niagara College full-time students are paying this year was an "essential" move, says Al Vaughan, director of enrolment and registration services.

This year's $34 increase came in addition to the $11 increase in incidental fees announced in February. The incidental fees cover the cost of student activities and services not included in the college's base tuition rate. Graduation, Orientation, a Student Administrative Council (SAC) fee, alumni, a student centre fee, a college services fee and student technology fee are all included in the incidental fees.

Vaughan says the SAC fee helps pay for various events and athletics at the college. The new fees allowed for a $2-a-term increase to the SAC fee. He says the student technology fee went up $2 a term as well. Services such as the library and the open access computer labs in the college are covered under this. The fee also helps pay for the machine that creates the college's photo identification badges.

The last increase was to the student centre fee at $1.50 a term. Vaughan says that this increases "slightly" every year under an agreement with SAC. He says this goes toward paying for improvements to things such as the pub and the cafeteria.

Vaughan says that since improvements have been made to the campus in Welland, the Maid of the Mist Centre in Niagara Falls may be the next focus. College services, graduation, alumni and Orientation fees all stayed the same.

Vaughan says that the increases will benefit students.

"It maintains the quality of education — and that's the bottom line. It would be nice to have no increase, but no government funding makes that difficult."

He says the college administration does understand the need to keep fees for students affordable, explaining that is the reason so many student bursaries available. These are normally awarded late in the academic year to a full-time student who demonstrates financial need and has satisfactory academic standing.

"We're very concerned about the affordability of education," he says.

The college's post-graduate programs' tuition did not change this year. Post-graduate programs cost $3,272.70. Vaughan says that a new $500 bursary has been made available to students enrolled in the post-graduate programs, "to help offset the higher cost."

Vaughan says there was no change in tuition for post-graduate programs because there was a "substantial" increase in the post-graduate tuition two years ago.

Vaughan says it would be difficult to compare Niagara's tuition to other colleges in Ontario, but "we appear to be competitive."

"Increased tuition has definitely affected our enrolment at the college over the past few years."

"I don't think it has been a significant factor. Enrolment has stayed fairly steady over the past few years."

Although tuition has gone up, it should not be a deciding factor in a student's choice, Vaughan concludes, "Tuition is an investment in future earnings that is recovered in the long run."

The Welland Soccer Club, which is located in the Niagara Region of Ontario, is seeking a qualified individual for the position of:

General Manager

The successful candidate will be a dynamic individual with leadership qualities and capabilities. Ideally the individual will possess a degree in Sports/Recreation Administration, plus have several years experience in managing recreational facilities and programs. Candidates with related educational backgrounds and/or relative job experiences will be considered.
The Welland Soccer Club is a non-profit organization operating year round. With its up-to-date indoor complex and seven outdoor soccer pitches on 32 acres of land, the club has developed a youth membership base of 2,300 outdoor and indoor registrants. It also operates several successful recreational leagues for adults.
The Welland Soccer Club requires a highly motivated individual to manage, market and operate its programs and facilities. Salary will commensurate with experience.

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COMMUNITY PARTNERS

College fund-raiser benefits Alzheimer Society

By JENNIFER CHORNLEY
Staff Writer

It's a "win-win" situation. Niagara College is helping raise funds for the Alzheimer Society of Niagara and launched its efforts through a Coffee Break on Sept. 21.

Staff and other guests at the Glendale campus event were welcomed by President Dan Patterson, as guest speaker Marge Dempsey spoke about a new mental health program.

The Alzheimer Society of Niagara Region raises funds annually to support local programs and services offered to Niagara residents living with the disease.

Dempsey outlined the content of the Geriatrics Mental Health program.

She says this is "the first course of its kind in the province and possibly in Canada."

It specializes in training for care of the elderly, since psychological problems of old age differ from those facing the rest of the population.

This program is a requirement for those who want to work with the elderly and allows people to have a better understanding of what the caregivers and families experience daily.

"This is very exciting for the geriatric population and wonderful for the residents (of Niagara). It is a win-win situation," says Dempsey, a Niagara College professor who teaches dementia studies.

Nancy Ferris, executive director of the Alzheimer Society of Niagara, and 1220 CHSC radio station president Doug Setterington attended the Sept. 21 fund-raiser. Setterington, 57, is the honourary chair for Coffee Break 2000.

Dan Patterson, college president (left), chats with Nancy Ferris, executive director of the Alzheimer Society of Niagara, Darrell Neufeld, executive assistant to Patterson, and Doug Setterington, 1220 CHSC radio station president, at the Coffee Break on Sept. 21.

Photo by Jennifer Chornley

He says, "It's a real joy to have been named honourary chair, and since I have been touched by Alzheimer's disease in my family, it is great to be part of it."

"We raised $36,000 last year and would like to raise the same amount or exceed that amount this year," Ferris, 53, says. "You would be surprised how much one cup of coffee helps."

Ferry explained that Alzheimer's disease is a degenerative disease of the brain that affects a person's ability to maintain daily activities, the thought process and behaviour.

The Alzheimer Society of Niagara was created in 1984 by volunteer family caregivers.

Today, the organization's purpose is to improve the quality of life for the people who suffer from Alzheimer's disease and provide support to the families and caregivers who, she says, "are the ones who burn out first."

Through support and education, people are able to remain in their own home longer.

There are 39 chapters of this organization in the province. Ferry says the Niagara chapter is "noted to be the most creative and innovative. The Niagara chapter has the strongest staff component and expertise." In addition, they have created books and videos, that are used provincewide.

The Coffee Break idea originated in the Niagara region and within a few years quickly spread across Canada. It is being introduced in the United States.

Ferris pointed out on Sept. 21 that thousands of Coffee Breaks were happening simultaneously throughout the country, and hundreds in the Niagara region.

Patterson says, "It was a really good turnout this year. It is a good opportunity for staff to hear about the disease and support it through their own personal contribution. I received a number of e-mails by staff who wanted to attend, but had class commitments or other commitments, so this expresses a positive feeling."

Dempsey says the society is always looking for volunteers, and she thanks anybody who provides contributions.

This year the Niagara College Coffee Break raised $121.60. Patterson thanks all the staff for attending the Coffee Break and says, "This event shows, once again, the generosity of our staff in responding to the need of community organizations."

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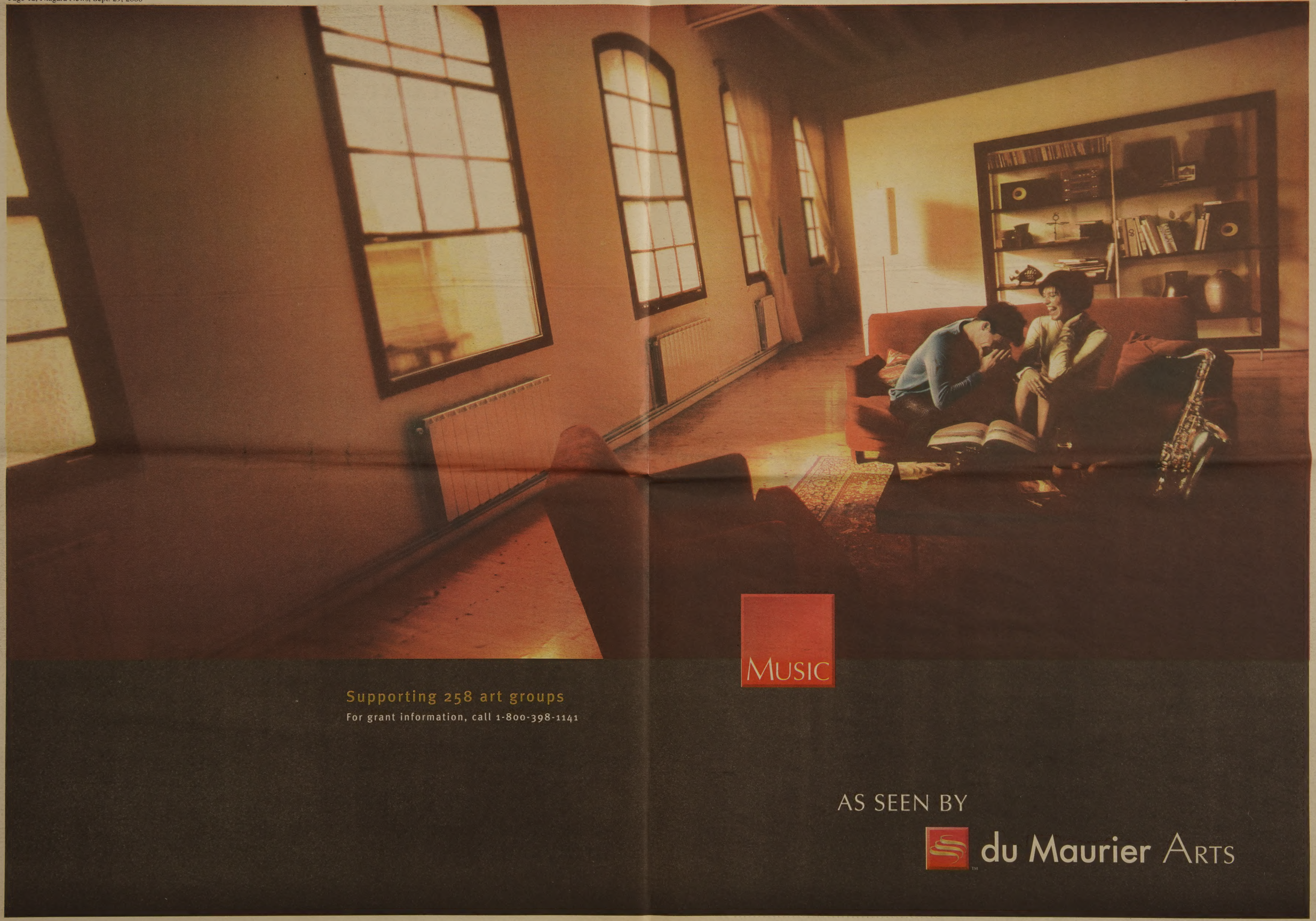
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INTERNATIONAL

International students make presence known with new record for enrolments

English as a Second Language students gathered in front of the Student Administrative Council building at the Welland campus during Orientation on Sept.7
Photo by Nauman Farooq

By NAUMAN FAROOQ
Staff Writer

An all-time admission record for a September start has been set by Niagara College's English as Second Language (ESL) department.

In 1999, the number of ESL students in Niagara College was 82. This year the number has risen to 123 students, with the total number of international students in all programs at 240.

Susan Vandenboom, co-ordinator for ESL since 1991, said, "There were eight students in ESL when I joined in 1991."

"We do lots of things (to promote ESL). Each country is different, and a staff member goes to promote the college. I go to Japan every year to attend fairs (to promote ESL). Other sources used to promote the ESL department at Niagara College include the Internet, (and) we are getting a lot of word-of-mouth advertisement for our college."

This year, Niagara College is hosting students from 14 countries, including Indonesia, Italy, Chile, Venezuela, Columbia, Mexico, Saudi Arabia, the Philippines, China, Taiwan, South Korea, Japan, Tanzania and Macedonia.

To keep the international students busy, the International Education Department of Niagara College has hired Jackie Penman as the new social committee co-ordinator. Her job will be to arrange field trips so international students can learn more about the Canadian lifestyle. Future planned field trips include ones to Toronto, a hockey game, a Halloween Party, movie nights, restaurant trips and a trip to the Grape and Wine Festival in St. Catharines.

Vandenboom added, "Our students like to make Canadian friends, so they need conversation partners. If anyone is interested in becoming a conversation partner to an international student, please go to S102 at the Welland campus to pick up an application form." Partnering students receive a certificate acknowledging their participation.

Learning Resource Centre eager to lend students helping hand

By TARA FORD
Staff Writer

They're ready to help you find what you need.

"It's very exciting to have students back again," said Sue Bartlett, library technician.

The Niagara College Learning Resource Center's (LRC) hours this year are 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. at the Welland campus from Monday to Thursday and 8 a.m. to 8:45 p.m. on Fridays. The library has a lot to offer this year already, and new books, magazines and videos will be coming in periodically throughout the year.

The librarians are all "very" helpful, said Bartlett, adding there is no such thing as a "stupid question." If asked, the staff will demonstrate how to use the PowerPoint software for presentations and the digital camera the library now owns.

The LRC has undergone a number of physical changes over the summer. The lower floor now has new carpet.

"We got rid of the ugly red carpet that has been there for many years," Bartlett said.

A group study room on the lower floor is available for students looking for a place to meet and get work done. Bartlett was given a new office on the second floor, renovated for her.

Bartlett, of Sudbury, Ont., has worked at Niagara College in the LRC for "many" years. She does a variety of jobs within the library including speaking to classes "upon request" on a fairly regular basis to the students know what is available.

She says she thinks the LRC personnel need to market what they do and let students know how valuable the library is to their success.

Bartlett said one of the most important things she does is "educate students" on the research databases. They are useful online information sources that can't be found on the Internet.

"They (research databases) are convenient, easy to use, have really good information and legitimate quality sources," Bartlett said.

She's hoping to have a busy year. "We'd really like people to pop in and see what we have to offer."

Sue Bartlett, library technician
Photo by Tara Ford

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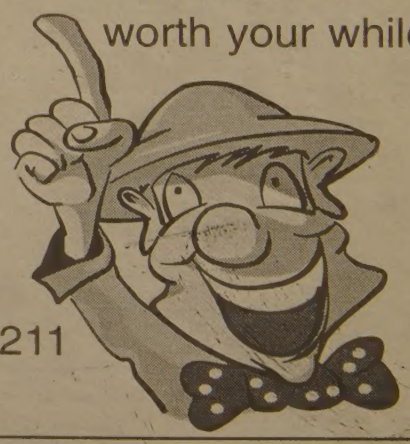

REACHING OUT

United Way sets $1-million campaign goal

By KEVIN HARTFORD
Staff Writer

The United Way of South Niagara has announced a $1-million goal for its 37th annual campaign.

A kickoff breakfast yesterday at Club Richelieu in Welland put the first loonies in the fund-raising pot at $8 a head. The kickoff goal was $200,000, a 21 per cent increase from last year's goal of $160,000.

The campaign ends in November. The United Way of South Niagara serves Welland, Port Colborne, Pelham and Wainfleet. Last year's campaign raised $920,225, $10.11 per person for the 91,000 population of South Niagara.

Pelham's 2000 campaign kickoff was held Sept. 16. Port Colborne and Wainfleet's kickoff was held on Sept. 22.

This year's campaign motto is "The Spirit of Community," which means "awareness of the community, hoping people will get into the spirit of helping and donating," says Carey Simmons, administrative assistant of United Way in South Niagara.

The United Way committee at Niagara College will announce its campaign goal at the college's campaign kickoff to be held on Oct. 2. The campaign will last four weeks.

Darrell Neufeld, executive assistant to Dan Patterson, college president, and co-chair of the campaign, says he hopes to encourage students to participate through a series of special events such as Jail and Bail, Dress Down for the United Way, a Halloween Challenge for best decorations and weekly organized draws. "Really, that's what it's all about, getting participation," Neufeld says.

You can contact Neufeld at the Welland campus at Ext. 7567 or campaign co-chair Rena Posteraro at the Glendale campus in Niagara-on-the-Lake at Ext. 4405 for more information.

Last year, Niagara College won a bronze United Way Employee Award for having a 40 per cent participation rate and an average support of more than $30 an employee.

"It's not so much about the money as it is about staff participation," Neufeld says. "That is always our goal, to get more participation."

Niagara College won a 1999 Best Overall Campaign, Public Sector Award, and a Best Student Campaign Results Award for Niagara College students and council.

"The students at Niagara College have done a lot for us," says Jill Cappa, executive director of United Way of South Niagara. "They've been really helpful."

Patterson was named a 1999 Leader of the Way for contributing between $500 and $999 to the United Way last year.

"We really appreciate the support of the college and the support of Dan Patterson," says Sharon Svob, campaign and marketing director of United Way in South Niagara. "They've given us really strong support."

Sharon Svob (left), campaign and marketing director, and Jill Cappa, executive director, pose in the United Way of South Niagara office in the Seaway Mall in Welland.

Photo by Kevin Hartford

Contact the United Way of South Niagara office at 734-0490 for information on donating.

Leave the Pack Behind helps students quit smoking

Public Relations (Post-graduate) program student Natasha Hotchkiss, 23, and Journalism-Print program student Colin Gibson, 20, take a carbon monoxide test.

Photo by Terri Lynn LeBlanc

By TERRI LYNN LeBLANC
Staff Writer

Butt out once and for all.

The Welland campus hosted a smoking prevention campaign in front of the Learning Resource Centre at the Welland campus Sept. 13.

Leave the Pack Behind is a campaign designed to help smokers who want to quit, not to make them quit.

"We are trying to get across that there is help out there," says Carolyn Gould, college nurse, of the Welland campus.

The campaign provides tips on dealing with nagging and best intentions of friends, individualized computer-assisted programs, programs for people who don't want to quit and quitting strategies and non-judgmental support and understanding.

"Most smokers have to quit six or seven times in order to succeed," says Gould, but "we are here to help."

The campaign is run by students for students. The Ministry of Health gave Brock University, in St. Catharines, a grant of $250,000 to run the campaign.

Niagara College signed a partnership with Brock last year to run the program as well.

Running since this term's start, Leave the Pack Behind will continue until the end of October.

Supporting students have already been to the Glendale campus in Niagara-on-the-Lake and the Welland campus. They haven't visited the Maid of the Mist Centre campus yet.

"We got a good response from the residence," says Gould, adding it was more of a "personal response."

"The intention is to get to all of the campuses, but we are just looking for people to run it (the campaign)," she says.

For more information visit the web site www.leavethepackbehind.org or go to the Health Centre at any campus.

Comedians happy at work

By KANDIS THORSBY
Staff Writer

Wade McElwain and Ian Sirota had the audience in the packed pub of Niagara College's Welland campus in stitches at the Sept. 13 Comedy Night.

Sirota, of Toronto, Ont., was a first-timer at Niagara and has been a comedian for two weeks.

"I actually got this job through Mike Harris's Workfare program," he says. "Before, I worked as a tool and dye operator."

Holding a sponsorship from the Progressive Conservative Party of Ontario, Sirota says, "This is definitely better than welfare."

McElwain, 28, of New Dundee, Ont., has been performing in comedy for four years and is soon to appear in his own comedy show airing on the Comedy Network. "It's a bowling game show and I'm the host." It airs on Tuesdays.

Being a comedian, he says, is acting as if everyone around you has aged but "you feel like you're 15 inside and you can get up and do something immature whenever. There's been a few bad nights where people want to fight you, but I just chalk it up to be that they're close-minded. Most of the time they're there to have a good time. "

He says performing for different types of crowds is like exercising different muscles. For instance, he says old people are not as politically correct as younger people and "don't give a s***." He adds, "When performing at nursing homes, the old people — all with their hearing aids turned down — think you're like their grandson, so they're happy."

After he graduated from university, McElwain says he thought it would be fun to try the comedian's lifestyle. He says he told himself, "I will go out there and try it. You never know, it could be fun . . . I don't want to get into a routine lifestyle like being a lawyer — maybe in a parallel world I am in a routine and I'm just trying to trick myself into thinking otherwise."

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EYE ON NIAGARA

African-American's life 'remarkable'

By COLLIN COULIS
Staff Writer

The restoration of the Rev. Anthony Burns's last resting-place was celebrated by about 40 people gathered at the Victoria Lawn Cemetery in St. Catharines on Sunday, Sept. 17.

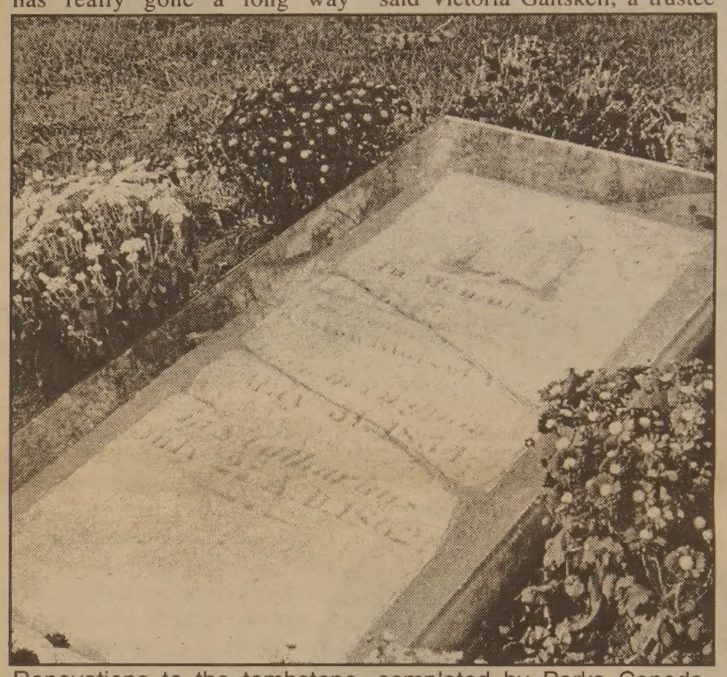
Burns was a former slave and well-known pastor at the Zion Baptist Church in St. Catharines from 1860 to 1862.

The restoration of the site, completed by Parks Canada, was unveiled to the public on the eve of the 162nd anniversary of the Zion Baptist Church.

"Parks Canada's involvement has really gone a long way towards ensuring the preservation of the site for the future," said Derek Cooke, a curator with Parks Canada. "I think recognizing the fact that so many African-Americans come to St. Catharines to visit his (Burns's) gravesite is quite important."

The cracked, faded tombstone, which has been scarred by the elements over the last century, was cleaned and encased in Plexiglas to prevent further damage from acid rain and ultraviolet rays.

"It's been a long co-operative effort requiring the patience and labour of many, many people," said Victoria Gaitskell, a trustee from the St. Catharines Museum. She said she finds Burns's life "remarkable" because after he was freed from a life of servitude he ended up serving God and the community. Gaitskell said events like this raise the community's awareness of St. Catharines' history as an abolitionist city.



Renovations to the tombstone, completed by Parks Canada, were unveiled to the public on Sept. 17.

Photo by Collin Coulis

During the ceremony, members of the Zion Baptist congregation took the time to thank various groups and individuals for their efforts in preserving this historic site. Those recognized include Marjorie Dawson, trustee and matriarch of Zion Baptist Church; Wilma Morrison, of the Niagara Black History Association; the St. Catharines Museum; Victoria Lawn Cemetery; Parks Canada; and the city of St. Catharines.

In 1850, southern Congressmen in the United States passed the Fugitive Slave Act to deter slaves from fleeing the plantations of the south for the opportunities and freedom of the north. This legislation made it illegal for any citizen to help an escaped slave and demanded that all fugitive slaves be returned to their southern owners.

Despite the law, thousands of former slaves were smuggled into Canada via the Underground Railroad. A complex, secret network of anti-slavery activists transported slaves from safe house to safe house all the way to Canada. Those who helped fugitive slaves were known as conductors.

One of the most famous conductors of the Underground Railroad was a St. Catharines resident named Harriet Tubman, herself a former slave who helped hundreds of other slaves escape to Canada.

Members of Zion Baptist Church and St. Catharines' black community gather in Victoria Lawn Cemetery to remember Rev. Anthony Burns.

Photo by Collin Coulis

"St. Catharines is blessed with two historical figures: Harriet Tubman and Rev. Anthony Burns," said Rochelle Bush, from the Harriet Tubman Centre for Cultural Services. She says that many former slaves settled in St. Catharines because of the city's abolitionist politics and connection to the Underground Railroad.

The Zion Baptist Church stood at 82 Geneva St. in St. Catharines until it was torn down in 1958. The church served about 40 members until the congregation fell upon "hard times" in the early 1900s. Members of the church now worship at a small house on Raymond Street in St. Catharines.

"Rev. Burns is watching over us. He would be pleased to know he is being acknowledged today," said Bush.

Burns was an escaped slave whose arrest incited the Boston Riots of 1854, one of the largest anti-slavery demonstrations in the history of the United States. Burns was returned to slavery in Virginia until his friends in the Baptist faith purchased his freedom. He then attended Oberlin College in Ohio where he studied religion. Burns settled in St. Catharines in 1860 and was pastor of the Zion Baptist Church until his death in 1862.

Burns's funeral was one of the largest events in the history of St. Catharines, said Bush. His body was carried by members of Zion Baptist Church and the black community in a daylight funeral procession from the church's original Geneva Street location, down Queenston Street to Victoria Lawn Cemetery.

Students surprised by new look of Welland pub

By PATRICIA HUGHES
Staff Writer

This fall some Niagara College students say they were "shocked" as they entered the After Hours pub at the Welland campus.

The newly renovated Niagara College pub now has a games room for the two pool tables and arcade games, leaving more dance floor space. Visible from outside, the addition is housed in the small stone building connected to the pub. You can enter it through the original Student Administrative Council building or from the outside.

The room's décor is a light blue and a dark blue. The bar is lit with bright orange lights, making it stand out from the rest of the room. The DJ booth sits in the corner with a ladder leading up to it, and umbrellas no longer hang from the ceiling.

Tammy Pierce, 19, of Listowel, Ont., a second-year student in the Social Service Worker program, says, "I had no idea they were (renovating). I didn't hear anything about it."

Jeannie Sherry, 20, of Waterford, Ont., says the pub looks better because it's "new and hip."

Sherry, also a second-year student in the Social Service Worker program, says the facility needs better ventilation for non-smokers and also more bartenders.

Pierce says, "The dance floor is more spacious, but it does get hot and smoky."

Pam Bailey, 21, of Wyoming, Ont., says the pub "will draw students' interests."

Figuring out where the funding for the new construction came from has led students to draw differing conclusions.

Bailey, a second-year Social Service Worker program student, says the money used for the renovations could have come from higher tuition.

Pierce says the government could have supplied the college with the funds. If that was the case, she says, it shouldn't have been used for the pub. "There are other places in the school that could use the money more."

CD sale raises money for campus radio station

By SCOTT THOMSON
Staff Writer

Students on campus were raising money, the old-fashioned way.

Kevin MacDonald, a third-year Broadcasting–Radio, Television and Film (BRTF) student, says the CD sale held on Sept. 25 was for "a lot of people that are interested in music you can't find in record stores."

MacDonald, 20, says the selection of music featured all genres of mostly independent artists.

"(We want to) introduce the campus crowd to a kind of music which isn't getting too much mainstream play."

All the money raised by the student-organized sale was given to CRNC 90.1 FM, Niagara college's campus radio station.

"We were hoping to raise a couple of hundred dollars that we could put towards radio station events we are holding in the year," says Macdonald, adding the next event will be a Halloween party held at the Temple Club in Welland.

"We've got vinyl, for god sakes," says Krista Bunn, a third-year BRTF student.

Bunn, 21, says the CD sale is a way to "get the audience and the community a little more involved than they are right now."

Bunn says the albums sold weren't great but the students still bought them. "The first sale, some guy spent $32." Music CD's were selling from $1 to $10.

"I came here kind of laughing, honestly, because we're playing all the good music on-air. My expectations have done a complete 180 degrees and have proven me totally wrong," Bunn says.

"We were trying to get rid of some CDs that we have lying around," says Shannon Aishford, a third-year BRTF student. "This was the best way to do it because we can raise some money."

Aishford, 20, says the money will be used for "promotion" to help get the station's "name out" and that the sale might happen again later in the year.

BRTF students raise money selling CDs on Sept. 25.

Photo by Scott Thomson

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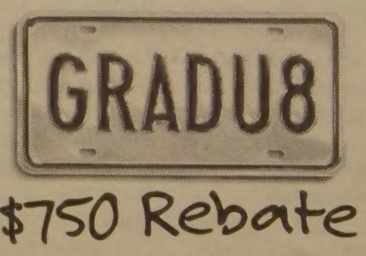

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SUMMER SUPPLEMENT

Philosophical teacher reflects on life, career

By AARON YZERMAN
Staff Writer

It's likely you'll never hear the phrase "Let's not talk about that topic," in any of Lewis Silvestri's courses.

The Niagara College professor says he prefers group conversations to lecturing, and he likes students to draw their own conclusions from his classes.

"If you walk out of my classroom knowing something, then I haven't done my job. If you don't walk out confused I have not done my job. I like to think that I am able to shake your ways of thinking so that you'll leave my classroom confused, so you'll think about it. If you leave my classroom saying, 'Well, I know everything that Lewis said,' then you won't think about it. You'll compartmentalize it and forget about it."

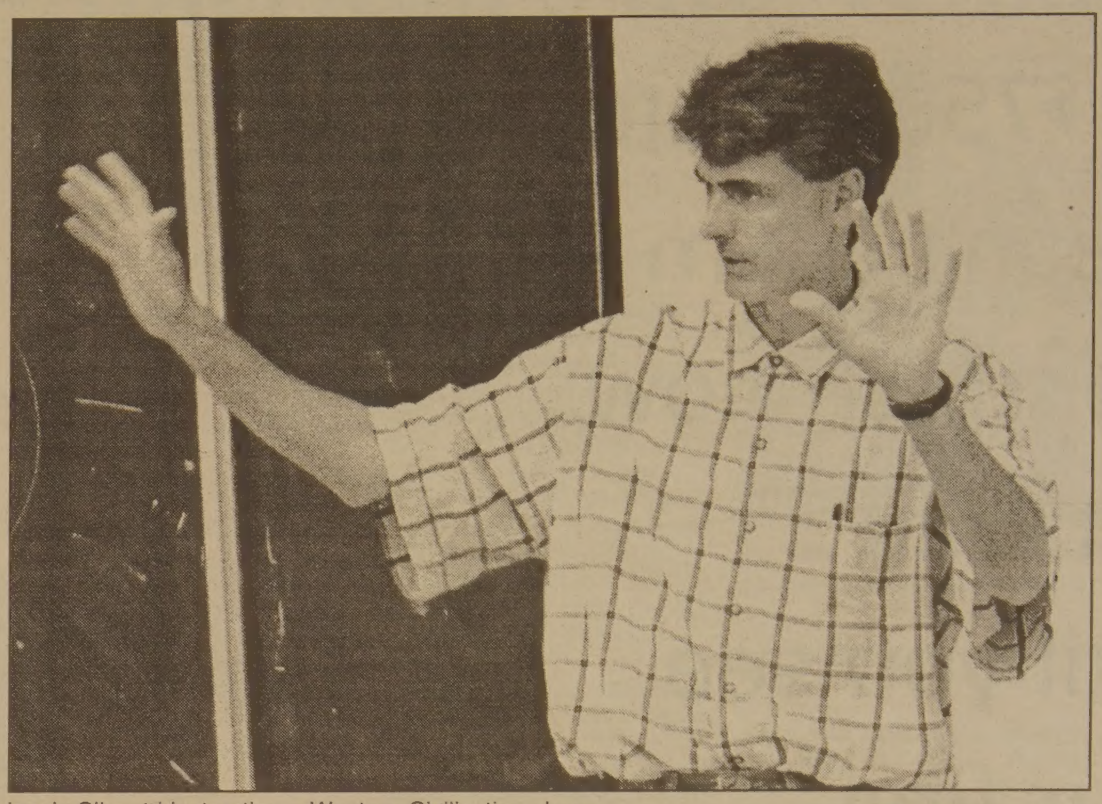
The 41-year-old is teaching Western Civilization at the college. Silvestri says he enjoys teaching the course, but has a hard time with it, as this is his first time teaching it.

"I'm beginning to think this might be the most difficult course I've taught. Period. I have a history background in a sense that all these things I'm teaching you, I've learned and I've studied and I'm interested in. I have such a difficult time with it when I stand up in front of the classroom to say, 'Look, this is what human beings are really like.'"

Silvestri has been working part time at Niagara College for the last eight years, and says he hopes to get a faculty position at the school this year. He took over teaching Western Civilization from professor Brian Keppy, who taught the first six weeks, while Silvestri is teaching the last six weeks of the term. He says he doesn't mind being here for the summer term, as he has been teaching in the summer for years, and attended school in the summer as a student.

"I went to summer school one year at university and I don't think I enjoyed school more than being there over the summer because there's almost a magicalness to it. There were hardly any students there. It was almost like we owned the place, you know? We could go get the books that you wanted. You could get good seating in the cafeteria. Your professors are usually a bit more laid back than they were during the year. It just really enhanced the learning experience. I think I quite like teaching in the summer."

Silvestri says he pulls no punches in the classroom and prefers discussion among the class. "If there's any opportunity for me to find out what you're (the students) thinking about things, I will go after that immediately. Some of the stuff that I teach is just basically 'Look, this is what you need to learn how to do. This is the structure, this is the format, this is the forum, this is the language, this is the methodology — show me you can know how to do that.' I have a very invitational style when it comes to students, you know? I think that what you have to say and your asking (of) questions is a part of the learning process that is so important."



Lewis Silvestri instructing a Western Civilization class.

Photo by Aaron Yzerman

"I absolutely love teaching. I was basically a knucklehead through high school. I was interested in being a golf professional and pursued that and neglected my academics. Certainly that was the case for the first part of my schooling here at Niagara College, and then I was in a couple of car accidents and that necessitated my changing careers and I really didn't know what I wanted to do, but I knew I was interested in writing and literature.

"I then decided I wanted to go on to university, and I had a really wonderful teacher, Joanne Baernstien. I can credit her with basically knocking on the top of my head and saying 'You've got something up here that works,' you know? She has made a significant difference to my life. There's no question about that. She was the teacher who turned my head on and got me going.

"I've always felt that if I could do that for someone else I would be terrifically happy, and I think I've been fortunate in having that happen a couple of times. I suppose it's more getting them interested in life and actualizing their potential, to a certain degree. I think one of the things that dismays me so frequently is students I encounter (that) aren't connected with even their own lives (and) seem to be disassociated from their own being.

"I can remember as a student here, well I wasn't necessarily a good student, I ran around and asked questions. I tried to make a difference. I was interested in things. They may not have been what my teachers wanted me to be interested in at the time, but I was interested in things, you know?"

Silvestri moved from Toronto to attend Niagara College in 1977. He studied in the Business Administration program his first year, and the Journalism-Print program the next year. Silvestri says he was really interested in rock and punk music and wrote about that, but was asked to leave the program.

"I went around and interviewed all kinds of bands. The bands I interviewed didn't know the *Niagara News*, and I got to interview John Cale from the Velvet Underground. I brought that story back to the *Niagara News*, to (program co-ordinator) Austin Jelbert and said 'Look, let me publish this. I interviewed John Cale,' and he wouldn't put it in the paper. He said 'No, that's not rock 'n' roll music,' so I had to do an article about, you know, one professor's pet rock collection or something like that. It was just ludicrous.

"I guess it was in my second year, at Christmas time, that I was invited not to come back, so I took some General College (General Arts and Science) courses and went off to university the next year. So needless to say, I didn't necessarily fit in overly well, but I suppose that's been true wherever I've gone. I've never fit a mould, particularly. I've always been a fringe dweller, as they say."

He says he knew he wanted to attend university while in college, but his goal was not always to teach.

"I guess I just sort of found my way as I found my way. Once the golf fell through, my game plan was gone and I really didn't know what I wanted to do. So, I got turned on to literature while I was here, developed some interesting friendships, and off I went."

Silvestri attended Brock University in St. Catharines and studied English Literature for four years, receiving an honours degree. After that, he worked, and then returned to Brock and, under the advice of professor John Mayer, studied third-and fourth-year undergraduate philosophy, and received a master's degree.

"I really knew out of university that I wanted to teach at Niagara College, but Niagara College, back when I graduated (from Brock) in 1984, had a lot of faculty. There really wasn't any employment opportunity, and I didn't at the time feel like I had something to give in the classroom, so I didn't really make any applications."

Silvestri began applying to the college around 1989, and in the fall of 1991, was hired by the Continuing Education Department to teach English.

In 1992 he was hired by the English Department on a sessional appointment, and has been at the college since.

Silvestri normally teaches 12 hours a week. He works 24 hours a week as an internship placement officer for the post-graduate environmental programs. He is a professor of the Process of Education, a third-year program at Brock University, which he teaches with Tom Busnarda, a professor at Niagara College. Silvestri also teaches a Business Communications class for the Niagara Parks Commission School of Horticulture.

"It seems that during the September-until-April period, I'm usually working about 70 hours a week, which takes away from my time with my young son Sebastian, so that part I dislike. But when you work contract and someone offers you work, you've got to take it in case something else falls through, but I'm hoping that will change next year. I've got my fingers crossed."

When he isn't teaching, he says he enjoys the time he has with his wife, Angela, and son Sebastian. Silvestri met his wife in 1983 at Brock in his fourth year of literature studies, while she was in her first year. She had gone to college to study journalism as well, and they met through Silvestri's frequent visits to the *Brock Press*.

"She was the editor of the arts section for the school newspaper, and I was a writer. I always went in at the beginning of the year and got tickets for the classical music thing so I could do reviews of all the classical music shows. She and I met there, and we've been together ever since." Silvestri says meeting her was an absolutely significant event in his life. "Without a doubt, she has been able to ground me to the Earth."

Silvestri says he likes writing poetry and short stories, and the works of Wallace Stevens, James Joyce, Friedrich Nietzsche and Virginia Wolf have had a profound influence on him.

"I could be doing anything. All of a sudden, something will crystallize, the universe will twirl in the palm of my hand for a second and stop, and let me see what the meaning of existence is, and there's an idea for a poem, and I go to grasp it and it's gone. And so, what remains is a metaphor or two, or an idea upon which to build, and sometimes it comes a couple of times a day and sometimes it comes a couple of times a year. I suppose if I was doing it all the time, it would come much more frequently.

It's something that I've always connected to and I think having some more time will allow me to pursue that again, because that will be the first thing I'll be pursuing when I can be a bit more focused and with less work, shall we say."

Silvestri says if he wasn't teaching for a career, there are several other possible professions he would pursue.

"I could teach golf lessons. I do now for friends and for people I meet on the golf course, and I help a lot of people out with their golf games. Golf certainly would be an avenue, but if I could do it all over again, I'd love to do it in the world of opera. I'm very passionate about opera, and I'm interested in the world of wine. I've worked in the wine industry before and that might be an avenue that I could find work in. Certainly being a writer for a company or being a spokesperson for a company because I have strong public speaking skills, and there's also a possibility there."

For now, Silvestri says he loves to teach.

"I can't say there's anything that I don't like to teach. I enjoy them all. They all have their own unique challenges. I mean, it's nice to be able to think philosophical, poetic things. I think the ones (courses) that allow me to use the breath of my experience are the ones that I enjoy the most. This is a passion for me."

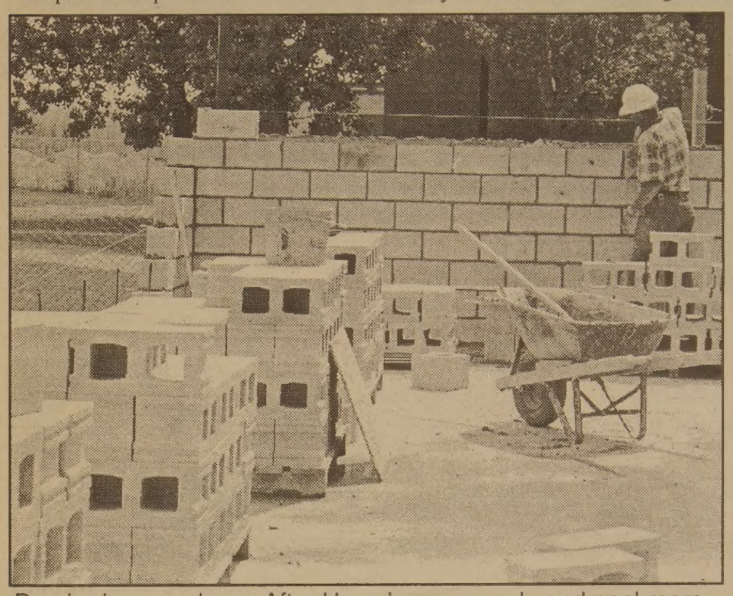
SUMMER SUPPLEMENT

Reconstruction gives After Hours new look

By COLLIN COULIS
Staff Writer

The Welland campus's pub, After Hours, will have a "fun and vibrant" new look when its doors reopen on Sept. 7.

"We've (After Hours) had some great financial success," says Dave Rapelje, general manager of Niagara College's student centres. "We've decided to put some money back into the building."



Don Ledwez works on After Hours's new arcade and pool room.
Photo by Collin Coulis

Rapelje, who has been at Niagara for 10 years, taught in the Law and Security Administration program for two years before becoming general manger of student centres seven years ago.

A new addition to the back of the After Hours building will serve as a billiard room and arcade. The addition will serve as a connection to the new cafeteria, when it is built in the near future.

In addition to the new poolroom and arcade, the interior of the pub is receiving renovations. The new interior will be painted bright blue, the bar will have more of an open feel and changes are being made to the raised seating and stage. Three new 1.5-metre-by-3.3-metre murals will be added to After Hours. The renovations to the interior of the building began on July 2 and were completed in five weeks.

"If you go to school, you should like going to your school pub," says Marlis Vos, designer of the pub's new look. She says she is using bright colours on the interior of the pub to make it look "less institutionalized."

"If you're going to be captive in an institution, you should at least have a nice little place to go to."

Vos, who has designed interiors and sets for MuchMusic and various television commercials, says students need "a place to escape."

Vos says the previous interior looked like a roadhouse pub.

The pub's new look is "retro, but still moving forward," says Vos.

After Hours is at the Welland campus between the Simcoe building and the Black Walnut building.

Ron MacDonald and Don Ledwez work on the pub's new addition.
Photo by Collin Coulis

Student building career upon life experience

By AARON YZERMAN
Staff Writer

The old saying "Help yourself" might be a bit lost on Dillon Evans, as helping other people is what interests him.

"Ideally, I'd like to be a correctional worker. Anyone can read a book, but if you haven't lived and experienced life, all that reading does nothing for you. I guess (I'm interested in that) because I've struggled for myself and won, so I want to help others."

The 23-year-old Niagara Falls, Ont., native is in the college's General Arts and Science program, which he said he hopes to use to further his learning by going to Brock University.

"I'm using this course as a launching pad, basically. I picked it because I wanted to explore history and psychology and use that for a stepping stone."

Evans said his interests vary in the way of careers, but he is most interested in correctional work. "I'll go to Brock, and then I know what I'll do — either history, journalism or correctional worker. I have a wide range of interests."

Although many students are out in the sun or working during the summer months, Evans said he doesn't mind spending his time at the college. "It's kind of a pleasant change. I'd rather be doing this than hard labour in the heat. I enjoy going to school and using my mind. I'm a very spiritual person. I'm into Buddha and Zen. I work with my mind."

Anyone can read a book, but if you haven't lived and experienced life, all that reading does nothing for you.

However, a family loss has made going to school in the summer difficult for him, as his father recently died.

"It's hard to keep wanting to move on. It's hard to keep going when you face tragedies and to keep a positive mind, but you have to," he said.

With much of his time being spent in class, Evans does whatever he can to help support his mother, his brother, who is 15, and his 13-year-old sister. "Looking after others and concentrating on your work is difficult. A good majority of my time is spent running the household — I do the errands and grocery shopping. I couldn't have a full-time job, keep the house going, and go to school."

Evans said he likes to read to pass the time, as well as write stories and music. He said his grandfather's participation in and stories of the Second World War sparked his interest in the history of that, and he often reads about it.

"I read a lot — a lot about spirituality. I think that has helped me with my father's death, you know? But I know he's OK. I know he's with me, and I am with him. I read a lot about near-death experiences. Nothing else matters on this Earth except being good to each other."

Grad has 'high hopes' for future

By COLLIN COULIS
Staff Writer

While most students are enjoying their summer vacations, Kristen Condotta sits at Niagara College's Welland campus working on a computer.

Condotta, 23, of Niagara Falls, graduated in April from the college's Interactive Multimedia (IMM) Post-graduate program.

She is working at Niagara for the summer on the VolNet project creating Web pages for various volunteer organizations across the Niagara Region. She says she doesn't mind the $12.40 an hour she earns working on the project, but the money could be better.

Condotta graduated from Niagara's Computer Programmer program before entering the college's IMM program.

'I think I found (Interactive Multimedia) easier because I took Computer Programmer first.'

"I didn't like (the Computer Programmer program). It was boring."

While she was working for her first diploma, Condotta says she had a class in interactive multimedia, which interested her in the post-graduate IMM program here.

The 23-year-old graduate says that computer programming gave her a solid foundation to start the IMM program.

"I think I found (Interactive Multimedia) easier because I took Computer Programmer first. A lot of people were lost."

Condotta says she likes computer animation, but prefers designing Web pages. She says she has plans to open a business designing Web pages with fellow graduate Jenny Ferry, 29, of Thorold, Ont.

"We have a (company) name and that's pretty much it."

Although they're just starting out, she says, she has "high hopes" for her new business, KJ Web Niagara.

Condotta says she hopes the college will call her back to work on the VolNet project in September.

January-Start students showcase their talent

Welcome to our Summer Supplement.

This four-page section was completed by three January-Start Journalism-Print program students at Niagara College in Welland.

The students conducted the interviews, wrote the articles and took, developed and scanned the photographs. They did the pagination layout and headlines.

The reporting, editing, photography and page layout were completed in July.

The tense of verbs is in the present based on the timeline of original writing of the articles.

SUMMER SUPPLEMENT

Niagara grad loves 'working with people'

By MATT WATLING
Staff Writer

For one Niagara College graduate his college experience was memorable.

Jason Marr, 29, of St. Catharines, graduated from the Hotel and Restaurant Management Co-op program in the spring of 1997.

"It was too long," Marr said, referring to the three years he spent in the college program. "Some of the courses were really basic." Marr said he found courses such as math to be too simple. "It kind of wasted some time."

He said friendly people with "great personalities" is what he remembers about college. "The teachers were great, because it's the hospitality course." Marr said the Maid of the Mist campus was poor and lacking in facilities.

"It was nice we got to make and eat our own food because we had culinary class, but other than that, lacking. Teaching space was limited too because there was so many people enrolled (in the course). I'm sure it's worse now."

He said his worst college experience came during a class-assigned interview. Marr had to call and interview a local area restaurant manager. The manager refused to talk to him.

"I was actually stricken with a dilemma where I was torn between making this report (for college) or totally telling exactly what happened, and that would be my report." Marr said he admits he did not handle the situation properly. However, he received a passing mark on the report. "That was a pretty bad experience."

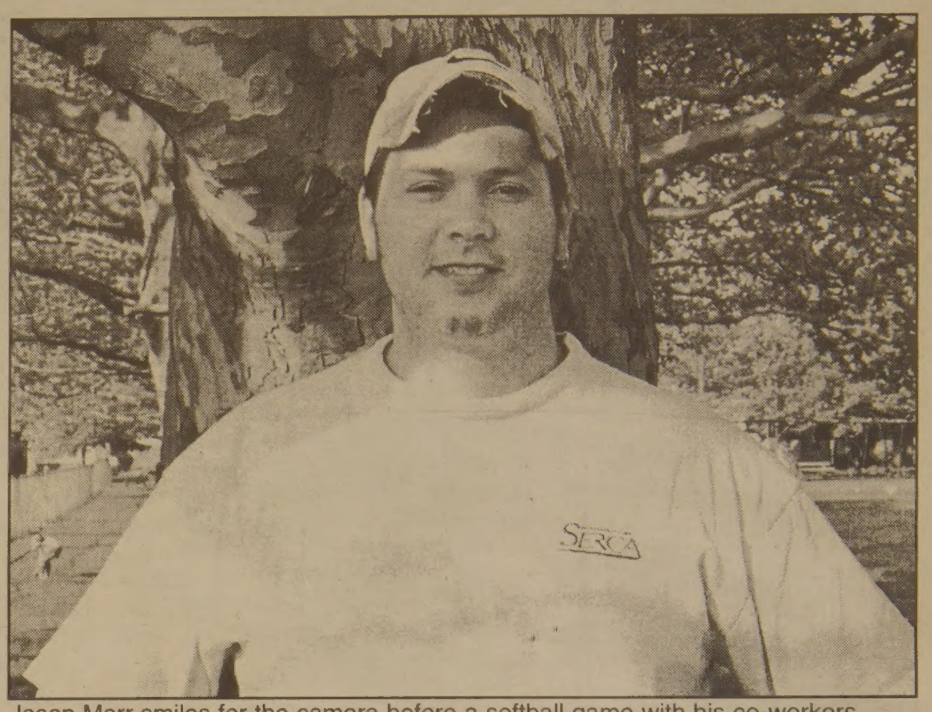
"It (college) was fun and I learned a lot as well."

On a scale from one to 10, Marr said his college experience would get an eight.

"I learned a lot from the teachers personally as well as in the school, so it prepared me pretty good. I don't know if the other people got the same effect as we (Marr and his friends) got out of it, but everyone seemed to have a good time."

Marr's first job was as a manager job at Denny's Restaurant on Buchanan Avenue, in Niagara Falls. "I really enjoyed working with the people I worked with. The job itself had its good points. I can't say that it was all bad." He said the job was "very busy," but he and the employees at the restaurant all had to deal with the volume of business. In July of this year, Marr quit Denny's to work elsewhere.

"I recently hooked up a job in Niagara-on-the-Lake working in a bed and breakfast." He said he is going back to working as a server. "It's going to be a nice break, exactly what I need right now. It's going to be nice to go back to do what I love to do, working with the people." Marr said the only person he has to rely on is himself. "I don't have to worry what anybody is doing, where's this going on, what do I have to do today. I just go to work and sell."



Jason Marr smiles for the camera before a softball game with his co-workers.
Photo by Matt Watling

Multimedia graduate gaining teaching experience

By ANDIE BRANNIGAN
Staff Writer

Who says there aren't any jobs for college graduates?

Devon Grey can prove that theory wrong. The 22-year-old from Welland, graduated in April from Niagara College.

Grey obtained a diploma in the Visual Creative Arts and Design program and enrolled in the Interactive Multimedia (IMM) Post-graduate program.

IMM offers courses in Web design, graphics and CD-ROM programming.

"It (the program) was very logical, and I'm not a very logical person. I'm more creative than logical, so I had to work on a different kind of thought process."

Grey says the teachers were helpful and came in on weekends to help. John Allen was the main teacher while the co-ordinator, Dave Robinson taught some classes as well.

"I got along well with my two main teachers. John (Allen) and I had similar musical tastes. He likes Dead Kennedys and Sex Pistols, so we got along."

Grey is working at the Trebas Institute in Toronto, Ont., as a part-time teacher. He works two days of the week making $20 an hour.

"I wanted to find a job that paid a lot of money for something I enjoyed doing."

Grey says he got the job after posting his résumé on the Internet. He was in New Brunswick at the time and his mother telephoned to tell him he had a job interview. Grey says he went to the interview and was the only applicant with teaching experience.

"During the school year I taught a Grade 8 class how to make Web pages and I liked that quite a bit."

Niagara student plans future Web design business

By MATT WATLING
Staff Writer

A 29-year-old Niagara College graduate says she plans to use her education to open her own business.

After getting a diploma in General Arts and Science at Niagara College, Jenny Ferry, of Thorold, with advice from her brother, decided to get a post-graduate diploma in the Interactive Multimedia program.

Ferry says her plan is to open a Web designing business called KJ Web Niagara, with fellow classmate Kristin Condotta, 23, of Niagara Falls.

"We have a few potential clients. We are working on the site for our new business."

Ferry says she likes everything about the line of work she is getting into. "Once you get to know it (Web design), it's not too bad."

She says there is a lot to remember when designing a Web page. "Before I came back to college I taught myself HTML (Hyper Text Markup Language)," says Ferry. "To be able to include audio, video and programming, it's pretty amazing."

Ferry has had experience in designing Web pages. Student Classified Online is a site she designed to aid students wanting to sell items, join carpools and find a residence while at school. She says the response was amazing.

"The problem is there is no advertisers. We had trouble getting people, I think because it's free. We tried to get Labatt's (the beer company), gas stations and car lots, places where you think students might see."

Ferry says the hardest objective to achieve is trying to convince advertisers. "They (the advertisers) don't realize it's worldwide advertising so they don't see the point."

The Student Classified Online site can be reached by going through the Internet search tool Yahoo.

Ferry says people who are interested in advertising can reach her via e-mail through that site.

She says she thinks Web advertising can be "a very important tool" for businesses in the Niagara region. "They (the companies) don't realize how big this is. They want it but they don't know how to get it."

Tories 'quite busy covering up' role in Walkerton

By COLLIN COULIS
Staff Writer
Column

It's been two months since seven people died and about 2,000 others fell ill in Walkerton, Ont., from E. coli bacteria that had contaminated the town's drinking water.

The small farming community in southwestern Ontario has been devastated and Premier Mike Harris's Progressive Conservatives appear to be doing nothing about the situation.

Despite appearances, the Tories are actually quite busy — quite busy covering up their roles in the Walkerton ordeal.

According to the July 1, issue of Maclean's magazine, the Ontario Ministry of the Environment says that key documents detailing the provincial government's role in the Walkerton tragedy will not be released to the public.

Why are the Tories covering this up? Simply put, it's their fault. Harris's cabinet has cut provincial spending on such necessities as schools, hospitals and water treatment plants.

Harris and his right-wing friends did exactly what they said they would do. The Conservatives balanced the budget by eliminating many provincial services we once took for granted in Ontario.

I think the provincial government has certain responsibilities to the citizens of Ontario, and I believe the Tories at Queen's Park are not fulfilling their obligations.

Ontario residents expect the province to provide safe, clean drinking water when they turn on a tap. Is drinkable water too much to ask for? It shouldn't be.

I'm not going to vote for the Conservatives in the next election, and I hope the rest of this province does the same.

SUMMER SUPPLEMENT

Breaking all rules with 'rock legends'

By MATT WATLING
Staff Writer

Sex, drugs and rock n' roll.

"We're rock legends," said Blag Dahlia, of the band the Dwarves, "It's not easy. Not everyone can claim that."

The Dwarves, who hail from San Francisco, Calif., have been in the punk-rock music scene since their first full-length album, *Lick It*, was released in 1985. On June 28, the Dwarves made a stop in Toronto, as part of the Punk-o-Rama Tour, a yearly punk show held in various North American cities.

Together with Eric Valentine, a record producer who has worked with Third Eye Blind and Smash Mouth, the Dwarves are supporting their latest album, **Come Clean**, released March 7. **Come Clean** is the second album the Dwarves have released on the record label Epitaph, and the band's seventh release.

The Dwarves' live concerts have been widely known to be unpredictable. "You never know what's going to happen," said Dahlia. "It (the live performance) just turns out that way." The band's stage show often includes nudity of some sort. Guitar player, HEWHOCANNOTBENAMED (yes, that's his name) plays in nothing but a wrestling style mask and some piece of material covering his genital area. Dahlia said the band's guitar player wears the mask because he is shy.

Dahlia is the singer of the band consisting of six members. He often writes the lyrics to the songs. The Dwarves have often been criticized for their profane lyrics and album covers. "I am influenced by things that people say or just what's going on," said Dahlia.

He said the band does not try to intentionally offend people. Rather, the ability to insult people comes naturally.

A violent overtone is evident in some of the Dwarves' songs. Titles like *I Want You to Die*, have led to some criticism in the past. Asked about the violence in the Dwarves music, Dahlia said, "Violence is good anytime."

Indecent album covers in the past have limited the number of stores who carry the Dwarves' albums. Major U.S. retail chains won't sell the band's albums because of the depiction of nude women and a nude dwarf named Bobby Faust. "I think naked girls are great. People should lighten up," said Dahlia. "I don't want to be in f...ing K-mart anyway."

Dahlia said he believes people should have something to look at when they are listening to the album. "We do what we want and try to make a good record or show."

The Dwarves' latest release, **Come Clean**

Titan A.E. has good animation, lacks storyline

By MATT WATLING
Staff Writer

Aliens have destroyed the Earth and a desperate race against time leads one young man on a search to save the human race.

Nineteen-year-old Cale (played by Matt Damon) teams up with Joe Korso (played by Bill Pullman) and a group of outcast aliens to find the Titan ship. The ship holds the ability to save the human race, after mankind was almost destroyed by the Drej aliens.

Titan A.E., a 20th Century Fox fully animated movie, tells the compelling journey of Cale. Released this summer, the film was directed and produced by Don Bluth and Gary Goldman. Joining Damon and Korso is a star-studded cast led by Drew Barrymore, Nathan Lane, Hank Azaria, Jim Breuer, Lena Olin and Janeane Garofalo, who all contribute their voices to the movie.

Fans of Star Wars may appreciate this movie, as it deals with the futuristic world of outer space and aliens. Cale, reminiscent of a young Luke Skywalker, faces the tough decision of whether to accept the responsibility of saving mankind or accept the fate the Drej impose on the human race.

If the storyline is not interesting enough for you, the animation will certainly be. Smooth, flawless animation makes this movie one of more interesting and eye-pleasing animated films. With space explosions and many different kinds of aliens, this film always provides your eye with something to look at.

The music in the film is adequate, with the soundtrack being provided by musicians such as Jamiroquai, Luscious Jackson, Powerman 5000, and Lit.

In all, the movie was decent at best. The major flaw had to be the lack of originality. It seems the ongoing trend of saving humanity in a futuristic space exploration movie has lost some of its appeal to this critic. If you are a fan of animation, give it a try. If you don't see Titan A.E., you won't be missing a movie of the year.

Rating out of five stars: ***1/2

Raves all about fun, not drugs, says local DJ

By COLLIN COULIS
Staff Writer

In the '90s, young people throughout the world started attending raves.

Raves are all-night dance parties with dazzling light-shows and DJs spinning booming techno-music.

Techno-music was born in Detroit, sometime in the late '70s, but raves were born in the '80s in the abandoned airfields and warehouses of England. DJs began spinning vinyl records at parties held in illegal venues for dancing crowds of LSD-fueled partygoers.

Soon these young partygoers, or ravers, were dancing until dawn at parties all across Europe. Raves started being organized by promoters, DJs became celebrities, ecstasy replaced LSD as the drug of choice, and techno-music changed — dividing into many different genres.

Ravers often wear big, beaded, plastic jewelry and bright, colourful clothing. Big, baggy pants are also an essential part of every raver's wardrobe. Ravers try to look as outrageous and funky as possible.

In the early '90s, raves crossed the ocean. Toronto, which has one of the biggest rave scenes this side of the Atlantic, was one of the first cities in North America to embrace the new scene and its culture.

Toronto was one of the first cities to legalize and regulate raves. Throughout the last decade, raves have moved from abandoned warehouses and parking garages and into the nightclubs and city-owned buildings of Toronto. Police monitor parties, search and bust people for drugs and weapons, enforce fire and building codes, and make sure no one gets hurt.

DJ Voice spins records at his record shop, Plastikworks, in St. Catharines.
Photo by Collin Coulis

Now, in the new millennium, after nearly a decade of groovy beats and funky dancing, Toronto's new Police Chief Julian Fantino and Toronto Mayor Mel Lastman have banned raves for the summer.

The Toronto rave community has responded by scheduling a protest rally on Aug. 1.

Marco Fournier, a.k.a. DJ Voice, a DJ and promoter from St. Catharines, has been mixing records for eight years. He spent the five years spinning hiphop until he attended his first rave in 1997. After that he started spinning "ragga-jungle," a genre of rave music known for its fast, unpredictable beats, pounding bass and raggae-style vocals.

Fournier says he has attended about 40 or 50 big raves since '97.

Fourier says he believes police are hassling ravers just like they harassed hiphoppers a decade before.

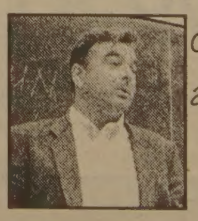
"I wish they would just let us have our fun. Let us dance to our music. Let us listen to the DJs we like," says Fournier. "[Ravers] are new. We're just starting to come out of the underground and into the mainstream."

Many ravers say this crackdown by Toronto police could push the scene back underground, forcing raves back into the same illegal and unsafe venues they were held in a decade ago, with improper security and no medical personnel.

Even though many ravers use drugs, Fournier says raves are about music, not getting high.

"It's all about peace, love and unity. Good vibes. Good people. Good times."

Check It Out!



In our Niagara News Oct. 13 edition, we will feature profiles of Brad Hunter, a Journalism-Print graduate, working at the New York Post, and Steve Hudson, the college's new vice-president of corporate services.

ENTERTAINMENT

Hennessey fills the pub

By STEPHEN D'ORAZIO
Staff Writer

It can't be easy to perform a rock 'n' roll show at noon, although Hennessey, a band from Ottawa, Ont., made it look easy.

Hennessey filled the After Hours pub at the Niagara College Welland campus with its melodic pop sound on Sept. 19. The talented quartet played a selection of songs from its upcoming CD, **Life on AM Radio**, as well as songs off its debut CD **Dig it up**. Look for a single and video in January for the song with the same name as the CD, *Life on AM Radio*.

Although the crowd was not huge, they let the band know with their applause that the hour-long performance was appreciated.

The band consists of the talented and beautiful Pamela Brennan, vocals and acoustic guitar, Rory Dyck, vocals and electric guitar, Mitch Pariseau, bass and vocals, and Tom Bona, drums.

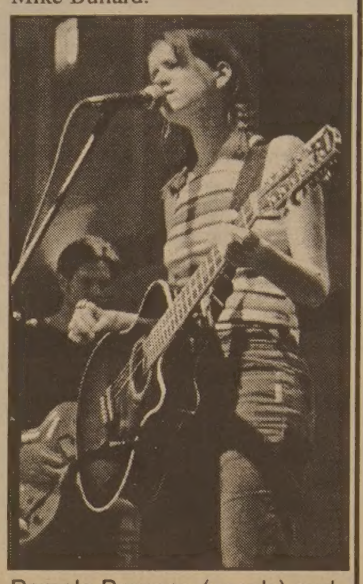
Hennessey's show at Niagara College was full of energy and great harmonies. Brennan and Dyck are an excellent songwriting team and complement each other well as singers and as guitar players.

Brennan's steady rhythm on her 12-string acoustic guitar and her lovely voice make an excellent mix with Dyck's solo work on electric guitar and his powerful voice.

Hennessey will be in Kingston, Ont., Sept. 29 and 30. Look for them in Sudbury, Ont., and North Bay, Ont., sometime in October.

According to the band's homepage (www.hennessey.ca), the band began as an acoustic duo with Brennan and Dyck in Ottawa three years ago, before adding bass and drums to the band.

Hennessey has played with Canadian rock 'n' roll greats such as 54-40 and Big Sugar. The band has also played Toronto's annual music showcase, North by Northeast, and appeared on Canada AM and Open Mike with Mike Bullard.



Pamela Brennan (vocals) and Rory Dyck rock Niagara College's pub.
Photo by Stephen D'Orazio

Staggered Crossing rocks

By KANDIS THORSBY
Staff Writer

The After Hours pub rocked as Staggered Crossing performed for Niagara College students at the Welland campus on Sept. 15. This Toronto-based band has opened for such notable acts as 54-40, Big Sugar, Wide Mouth Mason, Big Wreck and Spirit of the West, with whom they finished a national tour last year.

Staggered Crossing has five band members, J.T. (Jeremy), Dan, Darrell, Bruce and Gerald. They have been performing together for four and a half years.

Signed last August to a Warner label, the band will embark on another national tour after band member Bruce is married soon.

The band is now doing mini tours to Sudbury, Ottawa, and Toronto.

"We're the type of band that wants to play all the time. If you can get us in our environment we can play for hours," says Dan.

They say they're trying to "get an underground thing going" as well as being a label band. Underground means being a non-labeled band or performing for smaller clubs without all of the hype that comes with signing a contract. As for the origins of their name, the members point their fingers to J.T., who says he came up with the name by looking in the dictionary for two words that look good together.

"Some people say it means the gates into heaven or something, no, but one guy came up to us after a show and said it was actually a name of a traffic signal in England that causes accidents," says Jeremy.

Gerald (left) on drums, J.T. vocalist, Dan and Bruce (guitar) from Staggered Crossing perform at the pub.
Photo by Kandis Thorsby

It's expected the band will complete a music video by Christmas and release a new album by January.

"The whole thing about getting a record deal surprised me," says Jeremy, "but it was a valuable lesson of having over-expectations. Madonna makes a new record, we get postponed."

"I think the main thing is to go have a party, go have fun, go make music! Steven Drake from the band The Odds mixed our record and taught us things about rock, and that things that distinguish you from others is lyrics and keeping your heart in the same place even after you get big."

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SPORTS

Niagara's women varsity looking strong

By JOËL D. HERRINGTON
Staff Writer

After an unsuccessful season last year, the Niagara College women's basketball team will attempt to rejuvenate its reputation during the 2000-2001 campaign.

Every basketball team, whether professional or varsity, must possess height to be a contender. For example, the men's basketball team had five players who stood six-feet four-inches or more and finished last year with a 10-2 record.

Head coach Georgie Groat, 31, and assistant coach Dina Niejadlik, 31, both from St. Catharines, Ont., say their team's lack of size contributed to a losing season. "We didn't have the height," says Groat.

During the off-season, Groat and Niejadlik recruited three freshmen forwards. Kelly Lewis from Kingston, Ont., Janna Douglas, a graduate of Laura Secord Secondary School in St. Catharines, and Carrie Stratford, are the newest members of the basketball team, says Groat. "I was really excited to get her to come here and play."

Varsity coaches are responsible for all the off-season recruitment. There are no scouts and there is no outside help for attracting new players. Recruitment is an aspect of the game they are trying to become familiar with, says Groat. "It's our responsibility. It's something we've worked on more this year."

For the second straight season, Groat and Niejadlik will be coaching together. This is Groat's third year as head coach and Niejadlik's second as the assistant. "I think this year is going to be the best of my three (years coaching at the college)," says Groat, adding, "We see a lot of potential."

"Tryouts I think went really well. There was a lot of good hustle, a lot of good attitude," says Niejadlik.

Along with their combined five years of coaching at the college, Groat and Niejadlik say they also have experience playing basketball. "We both played for St. Catharines Collegiate," says Groat. "Dina played for Brock (University) out of high school. I played for Mohawk College (Hamilton, Ont.) for a year, I played for the University of Windsor and I also played at Brock for two years."

Niejadlik says, "It's too early to tell what kind of a team we have," yet she "thinks" a defensive team is "always the key" to success.

"Offence you can teach. Defence is a part of the game that most players don't want to do," says Groat.

With the return of five veterans, including Miranda Hubbs, Misty Williamson and the team's Most Valuable Player Candace Oxford, the Knights have experience. However, Groat says, sportsmanship and hard work will lead them to more success.

"I'm hoping for more team unity this year. If they work really hard and they're disciplined . . . then we should be a decent team."

Oxford was the point-guard for the Knights last season. Groat says Oxford has improved by "200 per cent" since her first year. "She's worked really hard over the summer. I'm looking forward to seeing her play this year."

As for the women's varsity volleyball team, assistant coach Laura Chatterton, 25, says the team has more "depth" than it did last year. "We have a lot of leaders."

Head coach Carolyn Welden has six players returning from last year's squad. Ginni Llord, 20, Amy Hamon, 19, Vicki Smith, and Kelly Davies, 22, are second-year players and Heather Richardson, 20, is a third-year setter. "Vicki is just booming right now," says Chatterton.

Last year's Female Athlete of the Year Diane Vandenhoven is back for another season.

Vandenhoven, 20, is a Special Events Management (Post-graduate) program student entering her fourth year with the team. "She really peaked last year," says Chatterton. "She was our go-to girl all year."

Because of Richardson, Chatterton says the team has a "good nucleus. Being a third-year setter, she' s the quarterback of our team who calls all the plays. (She) has to know every single position and where everybody is going."

The Knights finished third in the Ontario College Athletic Association (OCAA) West Region last year with a 6-6 record. They were eliminated by the Royal Military College in the qualifying round of the playoffs. "We had a really slow start and we peaked a little late. I think that's what our problem was," says Chatterton.

She says the players will watch tapes of their practices and games every Sunday. "We are going to schedule in class time to review tapes," she says, adding the tapes will allow the players to view what they are doing right and wrong.

Welden and Chatterton are beginning their third year together as coaches of the women's volleyball team. Chatterton says she does the physical training and the "logistics" during school, while Welden takes care of the recruitment, the business aspects for the team and runs some parts of the practices. "She has done a lot with the team. She's the voice on the bench."

With the return of six veterans, the Knights don't lack any experience on their bench.

Chatterton says some of the players are mature students taking post-graduate programs. "We have a lot of maturity on our team."

During the past few seasons, Mohawk College and St. Clair College in Windsor have been successful in OCAA Women's Volleyball. Chatterton says, "If we keep our heads on, train hard and stay focused, I believe we can do well. We should be a contender."

On the men's volleyball side, assistant coach Kerby Bentley (top left) runs his team through a series of performance drills during a tryout at the Welland campus on Sept. 15. Bentley says this year's squad looks just as "strong" as the previous year. The Knights finished fourth in the country during the 1999-2000 season.
Photo by Joël D. Herrington

College staff member watches son live Olympic dream

By AARON WILSON
Staff Writer

There's more at stake at the Sydney Summer Olympics than just gold for Canada. There's family pride.

Greg Swick, co-ordinator in the Computer Information Technology division at Niagara College's Welland campus, says there has been tremendous support for his son Matt.

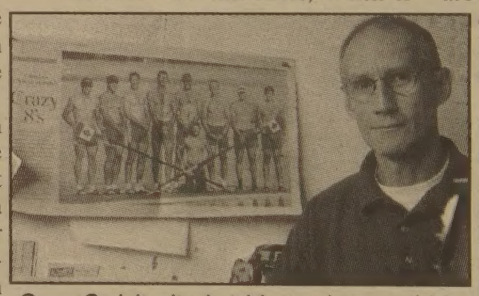
Matt Swick, 22, of St. Catharines, Ont., is in the Olympics with seven teammates on the men's eight rowing team. Swick is co-ordinator of the Electronic Engineering Technology program and the Electronic Engineering Technician. He says Matt left for Sydney on Aug. 22, and he has kept in touch with him by telephone and e-mail.

"He loves it there. Already he has made a lot of friends in Rockhampton, which is where the team trains."

Swick says it has always been his son's dream to go to the Olympics. "He was always quiet about it, but it has always been a goal in the back of his mind for many years." Swick says he realized his son had this talent when he saw Matt in a triathlon.

Swick says Matt got into rowing at age of 15. He played some basketball in high school, but after high school he concentrated on rowing.

Matt went to high school at Holy Cross in St. Catharines, which is known for its rowing. Swick says it was there Matt first got into rowing. Brian Moukperian, a director at Niagara College, was Matt's first coach and "instrumental" in Matt getting involved in rowing.



Gary Swick sits beside a picture of his son Matt Swick and his teammates on the men's eight rowing team.
Photo by Aaron Wilson

The team placed third in its heat, third in the repechage and first in the B final.

Matt's biggest inspirations are his brothers and his friend Evan Marony because they are all achievers, Swick says. Matt has two brothers, Nathan, 25, who was actually on the men's eight rowing national team when he was younger, and a twin brother, Paul, who doesn't row but provides "tremendous support," Swick says.

As for future plans, Matt will travel after the Olympics for three weeks in New Zealand, and then he is returning to Canada to attend university in January.

Matt studies biology at Brock University in St. Catharines and is going into his third year, but is deciding whether to return to Brock or transfer to the University of Victoria in British Columbia.

"Both universities are the two best rowing universities in the country," says Swick, adding he thinks Matt wants to get into research and teaching. "Oh ya, (and) coaching, for sure."

Jays de-claw Tigers on SAC's day at dome

By SCOTT THOMSON
Staff Writer

Take me out to the ball game, take me out to the crowd.

Thirty-nine Niagara College students hopped on a chartered bus and went to watch the Toronto Blue Jays defeat the Detroit Tigers 3-0 on Sept. 8. The baseball fans' event was sponsored by the Student Administrative Council (SAC). The 40 tickets SAC made available sold out by game day.

The game was a great lift to the Jays squad who went into it losing six of their last 10 games. Pitcher Esteban Loaiza threw a complete game and both Jose Cruz Jr. and Brad Fulmer hit home runs.

Reflecting on the trip's success, Ryan McLaughlin, SAC president for the Welland campus, said, "We were actually really impressed because we only had a week to prepare and promote it (the game)." The tickets cost $10 and included transportation to and from the game.

Niagara College students sat in the SkyDome seats behind the Tigers' dugout and were treated to two home runs hit into their section.

"The whole game was a blast," said McLaughlin, 23. "Just being there was so neat. Both home runs were really exciting."

SAC is planning more trips like this one for later in the year.

"Right now, we're in the works to head down to Buffalo (N.Y.) to see the (National Hockey League's) Sabres play the (Toronto) Maple Leafs," said McLaughlin, adding he's hoping a lot of Toronto fans will go to Buffalo and get "rowdy."

Other on-campus activities, like human foosball, will follow. McLaughlin said SAC is going to do more than just set up trips this year.

"We're going to try and be more than just an entertainment organization committee and we're going to try and become a little more politically involved."

When asked about SAC's expectations, McLaughlin said he "hopes to exceed them."

Niagara College students seated behind the Detroit Tigers' dugout cheer on the Toronto Blue Jays on Sept. 8.
Photo by Scott Thomson

EYE ON NIAGARA

Aboriginal Access Office has new manager

By ROXANNE JACKO
Staff Writter

Gail Lafleur, of Nipissing First Nation, is the new manager of the Aboriginal Education Access Office of Niagara College.

Lafleur started her position as manager on Sept. 5.

She says her goals as the new manager are to increase the awareness of students about the office, to have native education programs and/or workshops, to increase aboriginal enrolment and retention, to increase the profile of aboriginal students, to develop more community-based programs and to increase resources for the department.

"I love working in post-secondary to encourage aboriginal people to achieve academic, social and personal success," says Lafleur.

She has a Business — Accounting diploma from Niagara College. She graduated from the program in 1983.

She holds several degrees: a bachelor of arts in psychology, a bachelor of education, and a master of education. "My interest was always aboriginal education," says Lafleur. "It encouraged me to get my master's (degree)."

Some of Lafleur's accomplishments include being the aboriginal counsellor at Brock University in St. Catharines, an assistant professor and the co-ordinator for the aboriginal program at Nipissing University in North Bay, Ont., and the manager of a college program for Nipissing First Nation.

The Aboriginal Education Access Office encourages people to register with the office and has these resources for all students:

- a computer lab designated for aboriginal students' use and additional office equipment such as photocopier and CD-ROM,
- a library of aboriginal resource materials, including periodicals, manuals and videos,
- a study area/lounge area,
- the continual development of new courses, programs and services for First Nations and non-native students alike,
- workshops and class presentations based on aboriginal cultural awareness and learning,
- articulated programs with aboriginal organizations in various locations, and
- satellite campuses.

Anyone wishing to learn more about aboriginal culture and heritage is welcome to come in or call. The offices are in W206 at the Glendale campus in Niagara-on-the-Lake and S102B at the Welland campus. The telephone number is (905) 735-2211 ext. 7774.

Gail Lafleur is the new manager of the Aboriginal Education Office at Niagara College.

Photo by Roxanne Jacko

New students enjoying their time at Niagara

By AARON YZERMAN
Staff Writer

The first days at a new school can be scary, but Niagara College's first-year students can expect a warm welcome.

A new school year brings many new faces to the college, and their first impressions of the school have been positive because of friendly approaches by students and teachers.

College Vocational (Career and College Opportunities) program student Ubah Osman, of St. Catharines, says she has liked her time here so far, and especially enjoys the extra help instructors provide for students.

"The teachers are very nice, very understanding, and they go over the rules with you. They help you improve something that you have a weakness with. I was expecting a lot of homework, (and) no information, you know? I'm kind of lucky to be in this class. My teacher is very understanding."

The 19-year-old from Mogadishu, Somalia, says she came to Niagara because she wanted to enter the College Vocational program, and she had heard from her guidance teacher in high school that Niagara was a good school. "(College has) different roles, different expectations. It's easy to make friends in here. You meet a lot of people. They're nice too, the people in here, they're nice."

Niagara College has about 5,000 full-time students attending for the 2000-2001 year. Of those, 3,000 are new to the college, and 300 have enrolled in post-graduate programs. The Welland campus has 3,000 full-time students while Glendale campus in Niagara-on-the-Lake, has 1,500 students and the Maid of the Mist Centre campus in Niagara Falls has 500 students.

"The main thing we tell students (planning to attend college) is to research," says Al Vaughan, director of enrolment and registration services. "We don't want a student coming in and wasting their time and money for one term, and then maybe not being successful, and withdrawing. We tell them to test drive your program, you know? Come to the college, go for a tour, meet with the teachers before you make your choice. So, the more that we can encourage students to do that, the better."

With new students come new programs. A demanding job market can sway the enrolment for certain courses. Vaughan says one enrolment trend for the year is a "big increase" in the number of international students.

Niagara College has about 240 students from other countries, a figure double last year's. He says the technology programs the college offers have increased their capacity as well. "Those are programs that have very good job placements and very good average salaries in the end. Colleges are always bringing in new programs to serve the job market."

Nineteen-year-old Brad Morrison, of Hanover, Ont., a first-year student in the Computer Programmer/Analyst (Co-op) program, says living on his own has been a big change for him, but the college environment has been welcoming for him.

"I actually thought it was friendly, very friendly and accepting. I've met quite a few people, actually." Morrison says he chose to attend Niagara College because it's in the Niagara region and close to tourist sites. "I thought it would be fun," he says.

First-year General Arts and Science program student Steevie Mussell, 20, of St. Catharines, says she can see a change in people's attitude in college, compared with attitudes in high school.

"I think there's a big difference in the way people view other people. In high school it's very immature and very childish. People are, like, 'Oh, my God, look at the way that person's dressing! What's wrong with them, you know?' It's very marginalized in high school, whereas here, everybody's accepted the way they are. They're coming here to get an education. Nobody cares what they look like or anything," she says.

"You are able to be unique and you're able to be what you want to be and do what you want to do, as opposed to (having) fear of what other people are going to say.

"At first I was a little bit overwhelmed. I got really excited because of the stuff I was taking, but after about an hour I was just, like, 'OK, this is cool.' I wasn't so overwhelmed anymore. I got through the first day and it was, like, 'Right on. It wasn't that bad.'"

Mussell says another change she has noticed is the way teachers associate with their students. "The teachers are a little bit different. They're more easygoing, in a way," she says. "Making new friends is a lot easier than I thought it would be. I didn't really know a lot of people, and in my classes, some people will just come up to you (and say), 'Hey! My name is whatever,' and then they start talking."

"A big part of it (student happiness) is the faculty connecting with their students, for sure. What happens in the classroom outweighs everything else in terms of students feeling welcome," says Vaughan, explaining how the Niagara College staff approaches relations with students. "Most programs have a program orientation, which, hopefully, gives students a sense of what to expect in the coming year and over the time of their program, and overall, lets them know if they're having difficulty, either in their studies or in anything else, where to go for help

"That's one of the main things that we emphasize, (that what) we want faculty to do is just make sure students know that, and not feel that they're on their own, especially if things are difficult for them. A big part of students being successful — persisting in their studies and eventually graduating — all comes down to feeling kind of a sense that you belong here, that you feel connected."

First-year students on the way to their next class at Niagara College's Welland campus.

Photo by Aaron Yzerman